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TONY ATLAS: "DO I HAVE TO TURN BAD TO BECOME CHAMPION?"

December 1981
47727 ✶ \$1.25

Wrestling

**ST. LOUIS
WRESTLING:
GATEWAY
TO MAYHEM**



**Andre vs. Killer Khan
THE NIGHT ANDRE
SHAMED WRESTLING**



**THE TRUTH BEHIND
THE ERNIE LADD-
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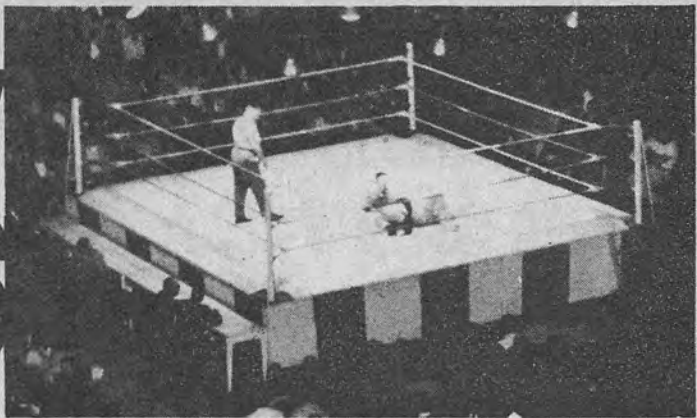
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SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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PLEASE EXPLAIN

I can never understand what you mean by "scientific" wrestlers. Are you trying to tell me that Mil "The Greased Snake" Mascaras and Bruno "Senior Citizen" Sammartino are the same type of wrestler? Or how about your so-called "rulebreakers?" What is similar about Don "Magnificent" Muraco and George "The Animal" Steele?

If you would look further into your good-guy/bad-guy classi-



Reader David Bitet fails to understand why we lump Mil Mascaras (above) and Bruno Sammartino into one category of "scientific wrestlers."

fications, you may find other differences that are more important. Wrestlers should be judged on how they wrestle, not on how much they bow and scrape to the fans.

DAVID BITET
Dix Hills, NY



Bob Backlund has failed to establish his superiority over such men as Hulk Hogan (above), Ken Patera, and Superstar Graham, according to reader Mark Mamula, who calls the WWF champion a "loser."

SHAMEFUL CHAMPION

In all the years I've been watching wrestling, I've never seen such a disgraceful title reign as Bob Backlund's.

Backlund: Men like Ken Patera, Superstar Graham, and Hulk Hogan have beaten you time and again. You always find a way to disgracefully hold on to your belt, either by count out or disqualification. If you ever stayed in the ring for 10 minutes with any one of these men I mentioned, you would find yourself a loser. That's all you'll ever be, Backlund, a *Loser*: the worst of all time.

MARK MAMULA
Hopewell, PA

THANKS, WIZ

I would like to thank the Grand Wizard for bringing Don Muraco to the WWF. The fans there should be honored that he is in their area because when he was here in Florida he was one of the best champions Florida ever had. I know he can whip Bobby the Boob for the WWF title. I saw Muraco beat Backlund at the "Last Tangle in Tampa" here in Florida and I know he will annihilate him next time they meet in Madison Square Garden. So hail to Don Muraco, the next WWF champion!

FRANK BARGER
Orlando, FL

(Continued on page 58)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

It is happening. It is not occurring suddenly, like an explosion, but slowly and painfully. Two men the fans loved and trusted are about to sell out for money and glory. Both Mr. Wrestling II and Ric Flair are on the verge of turning into brutal, hated rulebreakers.

It is a shock to see the change in Mr. Wrestling II. The man has become bitter and uncommunicative. He has grown so jealous at the success of others many observers are afraid something will snap inside of II's head.

"I started guys like Tommy Rich and Steve O," II says, his voice a hoarse whisper. "You'd think they'd come over to me every now and then and say thanks or something. But these guys don't give a damn about me. So maybe it's time I stopped giving a damn about them."

II claims he has been passed over too many times for title shots. Where once he would feel happy for the success of his friends, now there is bitter jealousy.

"That slob Rhodes got a title shot against Race and beat him. The week before, Rich got a shot. The week before that, it was Tony Atlas. You think any one of those guys cared that maybe I wanted a shot? You think they'd sacrifice for me? And now, people say I'm the one at fault. Fans are getting upset at me. Well, who needs 'em." II concluded his tirade by spitting on the floor.

Meanwhile, Ric Flair also ponders his future. "I want the big one, the NWA title," Flair says. "For too many years, I've had to be careful about the way I wrestled. You know, maybe that prevented me from winning the belt. Maybe I've got to take a win-at-all-costs attitude. If it means losing the fans, well, it's my life and my choice."

Ric Flair and II. We may have lost them forever.

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"Then drive there," shouts Peter King through the phone to me, "or ride your unicycle there if you have to, but we've got to have that story."

I quickly decided that taking the unicycle would require far too much time, and I didn't need those kinds of pains anyway. So my '69 Caddy, the "Green Giant," was once again brought into action.

get there just in time to talk with Mascaras.

Fifteen hundred miles. Thirty hours on the highway. I didn't relish the thought, but I stocked my car with tapes, food and drink, and started westward.

Word had filtered into the office, and I was sent out to get the story: Mil Mascaras, who had been seriously considering leaving the WWF for good, was having second thoughts.

Frankly, I hoped that Mil would stay. There were some new arrivals in the WWF, particularly Mr. Fuji, Mr. Saito, and Greg Valentine, who are raising hell all over the



Mil Mascaras was largely responsible for the demise of The Moondogs, but now he finds that his task in the WWF is incomplete. An influx of rulebreakers into the territory has forced his return.

Actually, I have another name for this gas guzzling monster, but this is a family publication.

I had a meeting scheduled with Mil Mascaras in Houston on a Wednesday evening. My flight was originally to have left early Monday morning, and I was going to visit some relatives in nearby Galveston. No such luck. If I was going to make it in time for my meeting with Mil, I would have to spend the next two days straight on the road . . . and hopefully, I would

place. Mil's abilities would be appreciated by fans and WWF wrestlers alike.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Green Giant blew a muffler gasket. They could probably hear the thunder of my engine all the way to Nashville. It was pretty late on Tuesday afternoon, and I had a hard time finding a garage open all night that could spend the time to fix the damn thing. Fortunately I did, though, and I grabbed a meal

(Continued on page 52)

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For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessed visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

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In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

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• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

HE TALKED AND he kept on talking. If he stopped, he surely would have cried. For 22 years, Bruno Sammartino faced the most ruthless wrestlers the world could put before him and he never flinched. But now, Bruno was staring into the face of something a lot more fearsome than The Sheik or George Steele or Ivan Koloff, and he could barely cope.

Retirement isn't accepted easily by a proud man.

The room was filled with reporters, many of whom had covered Bruno since the strongman from Abruzzi, Italy, burst upon the United States wrestling scene in 1959. I thought about how many times in those 22 years, through thousands of matches, through two title reigns spanning nearly 11 years, these same reporters were gathered in similar rooms for press conferences with Sammartino. Yet these men and women were clearly as affected by the whole scene as their subject.

I tried, but I could not bring myself to ask a question. I was viewing this man as I did 15 years ago when I first took an interest in professional wrestling. I was his fan again.

My recollection is vivid. My grandfather had always been a big fan and I watched the matches on television from time to time just to keep him company. I was never fully interested in wrestling until the first time I saw Bruno Sammartino. Standing beside him during an interview was a stocky man wearing a pinstriped suit and a neck brace that extended so high, it nearly covered his mouth. Bruno's

(Continued on page 53)

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

AFTER ALL THE mewling excuses are made, it is still unforgivable. Andre the Giant has revealed himself to be the most despicable excuse for a human being in wrestling history.

As everyone knows by now, Andre injured Killer Khan during a match. Though the maneuvers Andre used were cruelly illegal, he bribed the referee enough to let him get away with it. You expect that from Andre, so it doesn't bother you. But crippling Khan wasn't enough for the overgrown ape. His bloodlust demanded that he overturn the stretcher that was carrying Khan away. After this, can Andre the Giant expect to live with civilized human beings?

This freak of ill nature must be driven from wrestling. This kind of conduct cannot be tolerated. What scares me most is that people are applauding him for his barbaric conduct. No one is angry. There are even some morons blathering about Andre giving Khan what he deserved.



The ringside physician tries to revive an unconscious Killer Khan who has been brutalized by Andre the Freak. The stretcher incident followed.

What if the situation were reversed? Can you imagine the cries of outrage if Andre's grotesque body had tumbled from the stretcher? At the very least, Khan would be suspended and fined. There would probably be an outcry so great that Khan would be banned from professional sports. Khan would be the leper of wrestling. Yet, when Andre does this despicable deed, he's a hero.

Don't think this is some sort of once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. Now that the so-called scientific wrestlers realize they can

get away with it, no "rule-breaker" will be safe. What will Andre do next. Will he bring a baseball bat into the ring, and to the fans' cheers, will he crush his opponent's kneecaps? Certainly, that's barbaric, but is it any more barbaric than tossing a man off a stretcher?

I can't wait to see Bob Backlund take advantage of this new freedom. Yes, Little Lord Fawnandcloy will see what Andre gets away with and go him one better. After all, Backlund has a belt. While spewing the most idiotic drivel about

(Continued on page 54)

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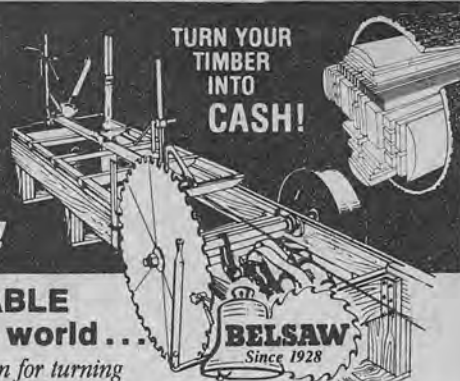
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THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

The dangerous tag team of Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito are planning an entire takeover of the WWF! The date of this attack? December 7th, of course.

Fuji, Saito, and their manager, tag team genius Lou Albano, do not hide their intentions.

"We're gonna take over the whole Federation," Albano promises. "Then we won't have to take any orders from those stupid promoters and referees,

and we won't be forced to wrestle such washed-up punks like Garea, Martel, Backlund, Mascaras, and Andre the Freak."

The threat has been made before, and more than likely, the WWF is too big and too strong for Albano, Fuji, and Saito to take control. But the date of their planned attack is significant. You all remember December 7, 1941, don't you? It's the day that will live in infamy.

"We weren't responsible for Pearl Harbor, our country was forced into it," explains Fuji. "But we're tired of being blamed

for it in this country. We've decided to finish the job that our brothers started 40 years ago."

"That goes double for me," echoed Albano. "My people were on the losing side in The Big War, too. But not this time. Call the alliance between Fuji, Saito, and myself The Reunion of the Axis Powers. Ain't no stopping us now, daddy!"

Sounds like Albano has really lost his marbles this time. But just to make sure, dust off that old submachine gun, find your old canteen, and practice your salute. We might be fighting for our country again before you know it.

RUMOR VS. FACT

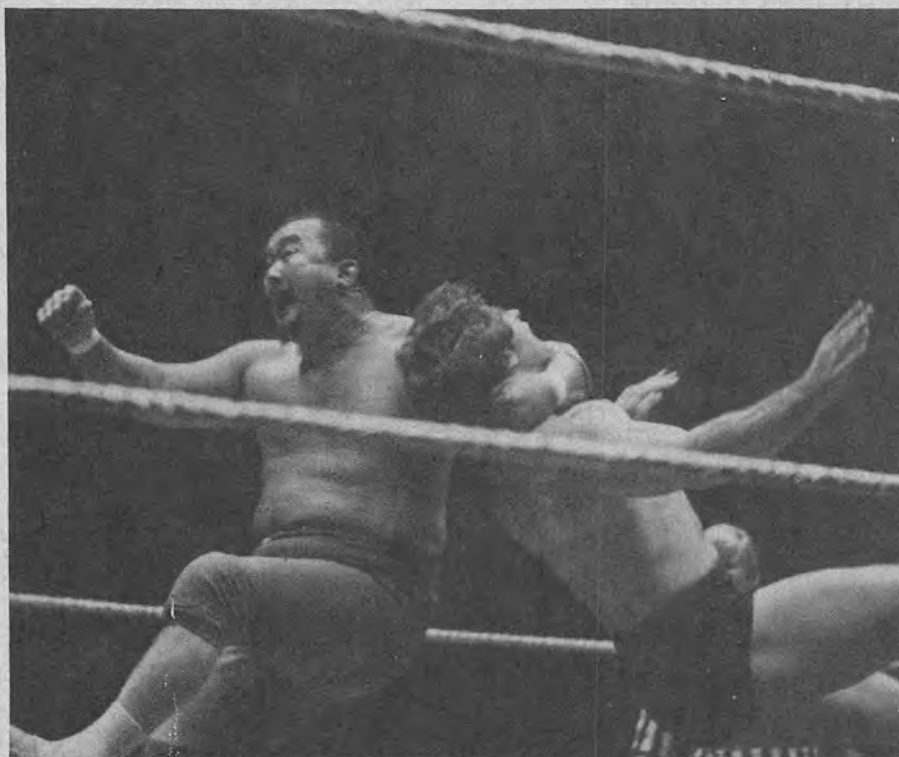
RUMOR: Mr. Wrestling II is really Jody Powell, the former press secretary for Jimmy Carter!

FACT: Gimme a break! Sure, Powell is from Georgia. Sure, he is built along the same lines as II. Sure, at the various political functions II has been invited to he and Powell have never been seen together. Naw. Couldn't be. Could it?

RUMOR: NWA champion Dusty Rhodes may be forced to quit wrestling unless he loses 50 pounds, according to his physician!

FACT: Does The American Dream look like an athlete ready to retire to you? The champion is a bit on the flabby side, but Rhodes knows how to

(Continued on page 56)

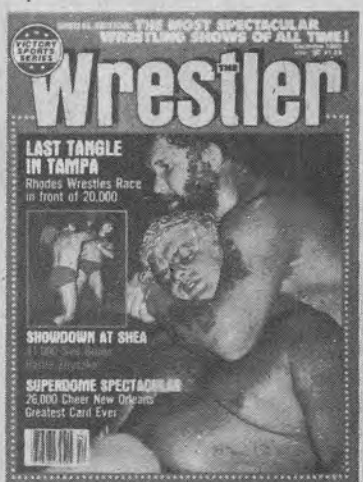


Mr. Fuji sadistically clotheslines Tony Garea. Captain Lou Albano won't be satisfied until Fuji and Mr. Saito hang the entire WWF out to dry.

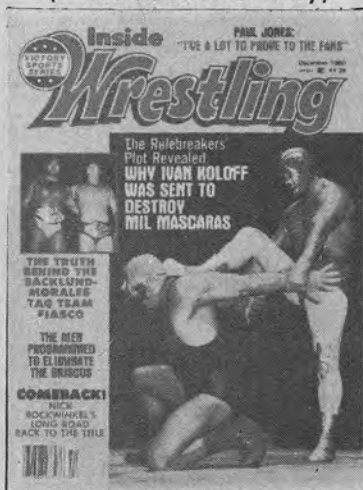
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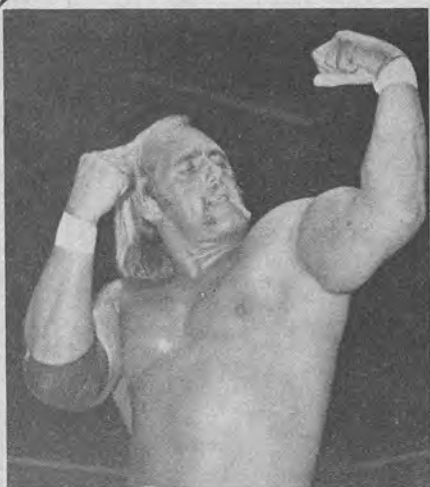
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NAMES MAKI



HULK HOGAN

HULK HOGAN has become somewhat of a hero in the AWA areas. The fans' affections for Hogan came about after he came to the aid of rookie BRAD RHEINGANS while Brad was on the receiving end of a sneak attack by CRUSHER BLACKWELL.

"It made me sick to see an all-American kid, one who was supposed to go to the Olympics last year, get dumped on by Blackwell for no reason at all," Hogan told us. "If Blackwell wants to mess with



CRUSHER BLACKWELL



DUSTY RHODES

sneak attacks, let him try one on me. I'll kick his fat butt!" Hogan wants it made clear that "although the fans are cheering for me, which makes them very smart, I will not change my ring tactics. I wrestle the same no matter if it is against a bum like Blackwell or a creep like BOB BACKLUND."

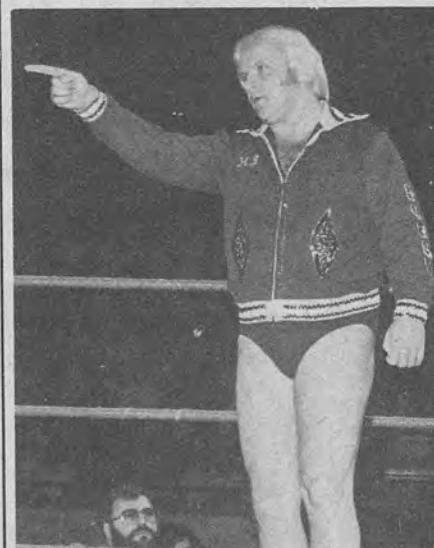
NWA Champion DUSTY RHODES is under heavy criticism for not wrestling former champion HARLEY RACE. Dusty says it isn't his fault—Race is not listed for an immediate title match by the NWA. But rumors are circulating all over the U.S. and Japan that Dusty is avoiding a match against Race and he has paid several grapplers off to eliminate Race from the contender list.

CHARLIE COOK has lost the Florida championship back to the man he won it from, DORY

FUNK JR. Cook is not too depressed, saying that he's only been wrestling a few years and considers it quite an honor just having down on his record that he upset Dory for the belt... BOBBY HEENAN is teaming with RAY STEVENS on occasion in the AWA. Why is Heenan wrestling with Ray instead of managing him? "The world will find out soon," he claims.



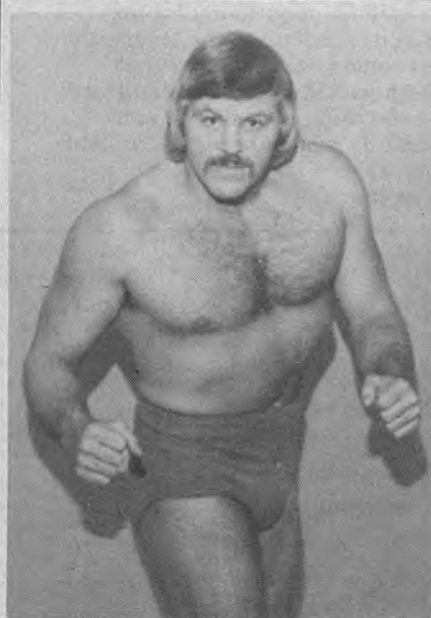
DORY FUNK JR.



BOBBY HEENAN

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



ED WISKOWSKI

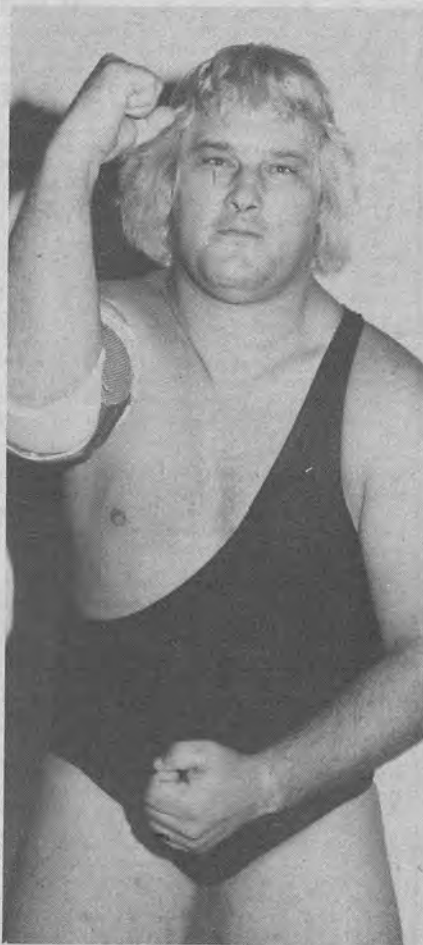
ED WISKOWSKI, the man who has broken four arms and three legs at last count, and who is also banned in several states, is now in Oklahoma. He wants to see how many fan favorites he can maim. He's starting out with his sights on EDDIE GILBERT and RICKY MORTON... TERRY TAYLOR and BLACKJACK MULLIGAN JR. are a hot tag team.

TIGER CONWAY JR. pretended that he was asleep when BUCK ROBLEY put his sleeperhold on him. When Robley let go, thinking he won, Tiger met him with a fierce dropkick and gained revenge for a previous incident where Robley tried to cripple him... AUSTIN IDOL has mastered the favorite hold of RIC FLAIR, the figure-four leglock. Austin threatens to "end Flair's career with his own pet maneuver."

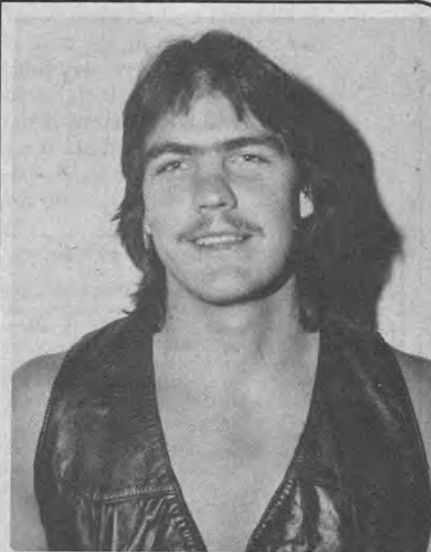
STEVE REGAL has captured the Pacific Northwest title. A recent defense saw him successfully

hold the belt against the vicious CHRIS COLT... TONY ATLAS made a triumphant return to Madison Square Garden by thrashing MOONDOG REX. Tony had been away from the "Big Apple" for several months.

August saw six-time NWA champion LOU THESZ don the trunks again—this time in Oklahoma. Lou's opponent was MIKE GEORGE... "Hangman" BOBBY JAGGERS, Southern Champion, says that he has already pinned all the top scientific stars in Florida and may have to move on and defend his title elsewhere.



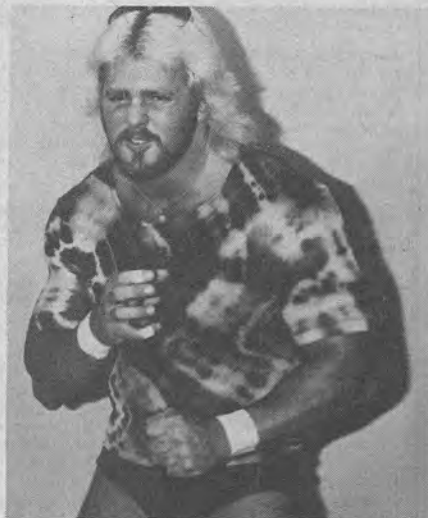
BOBBY JAGGERS



BLACKJACK MULLIGAN JR.

PAT PATTERSON wrestled NICK BOCKWINKEL for the AWA title in Oakland, California. Pat had the match all the way until Nick's manager, BOBBY HEENAN interfered. Patterson wound up chasing Heenan outside the ring and was counted out... ED BOULDER is contemplating more AWA matches. He is currently undefeated there.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



ED BOULDER

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the true collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues is very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, **WRESTLING** magazine changed its name to **BOXING & WRESTLING**. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.

DECEMBER 1951 Boxing—Maxim Beats Sailor Murphy, Gavilan Beats Billy Graham, Jim Corbett, Knockout Artists, Best Prospects, New Champion Randy Turpin, Upsets, Jersey Joe Walcott, Ratings, Marciano Challenges Walcott, Sandy Saddler (Life Story), Tex Rickard, Famous Fights of the Past, Fights of the Month
Wrestling—Verne Gagne, Ratings, TV Announcer Dennis James, Sander Szabo, Matches of the Month, Pet Peeve, Sammy Berg, Mae Weston \$25

JANUARY 1952 Boxing—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts
Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londos vs. Shikat \$25

FEBRUARY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Trouble with Boxing, Young Prospects, Tony Canzoneri, Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Graziano, Unusual Incidents, Predictions for 1952, Willie Lewis vs. Sailor Burke, Ratings (Marciano Fighter of Month), Tex Rickard Story
Wrestling—Dirty Duseks, Cora Combs, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, The Original Terrible Turk, How to Improve Wrestling, Ratings \$25

JUNE 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record
Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of the Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz \$25

AUGUST 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeny Teran and Gil Cadilli, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tendler, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings
Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Bailargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, Mighty Atlas \$25

SEPTEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Arauji, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of the Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldoon, Wrestling Whirl \$25

OCTOBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello
Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of the Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne \$25

MAY 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Danny Nardico upsets Jake LaMotta, Rocky Castellani beats Tiger Jones), Kid Gavilan kayoes Chuck Davey to retain crown, Roland LaStarza tops Rex Layne, The

Dundee Brothers, Baltimore's Great Fighters, Saga of John Morrissey, Tommy Loughran, Ratings, Middleweight Muddle, Charlie White

Wrestling—Fred Curry, Elvira Snodgrass, Matches of Month, Great Togo, Ruffy Silverstein, Trading Holds, Record of Buddy Rogers, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$30

DECEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenbloom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz
Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choyinski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin
Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Viann, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club \$25

MARCH 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Ciriqi, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Young Griffo, Kid McCoy vs. Tommy Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez

Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs. \$25

APRIL 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choyinski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, "Boardwalk" Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nick's Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings \$25

MAY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Carter, Trainer Whitey Bimstein's Secrets, Pancho Villa's Life, Frankie Ryff, Ray Robinson's Comeback, Les Darcy, Charley Norkus, Max Baer Kayoes Max Schmeling, Bob Fitzsimmons, Quiz, Ratings, Barney Ross

Wrestling—Primo Carnera, Roy McClarity, Matches of Month, Southwest Champs, Great Scott, Killer Kowalski Strength Secrets, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up of Buddy Rogers \$20

JUNE 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Eduardo Lausse, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goetz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga \$25

JULY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nick's, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Tiger Joe Marsh, Matches of Month, Timmy Geohagen TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build

Muscles, Was Henri DeGlane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talaber \$25

AUGUST 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritz Zivic batters Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings

Wrestling—'Legs' Langevin, Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Nomellini \$25

SEPTEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Castellani, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Stinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller \$25

OCTOBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Title! Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears \$25

NOVEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Marciano Kayoes Archie Moore, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, What Made Dempsey A Killer? 'Bud' Smith, Yama Bahama, Joe Gans vs. Rufe Turner, Strategy, Tony Puleo, Great Trainers, Ratings, Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Quiz

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Matches of Month, Don Arnold, Colorful Characters, Hindu Wrestlers, Chris Tolos, Malcolm Brenner, Full Color Pin Up of Pat O'Connor \$25

JANUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giambra upsets Bobo Olson, Joe Lynch, Ray Drake, Mystery of Joe Walcott Solved, Training Camps, Jimmy Slattery, Chris Christensen, Bare Knuckle Brawl-Tom Johnson vs. Isaac Perrins, Petey Sarron, Charley White, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Why Women Wrestle, Wrestling Whirl, Bill Fletcher, Ivan Padubny, Bearded Wrestlers, Matches of Month, Art Michalek, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Ralph Dupas, Young Otto, Willie Pep, Billy Conn, Nonpareil Dempsey vs. George LaBlanche, Joe Miceli, Boxing Lesson, I.B.C., Freddie Steele, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Pepper Gomez, June Byers vs. Babs Wingo, Matches of Month, French Angel, Karl Davis, Best Rookies, Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$25

MARCH 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Chuck Spieser, Isaac Logart, Ratings, Luis Firpo's Life, Raton Macias, Jim Jeffries vs. Ji Corbett, Tiger Jones, Boxing Lesson, Review of 1955, Frankie Genaro, Quiz

Wrestling—Leo 'The Lion' Newman, Matches of Month, Doc Gallagher Terrible Turk, Breast Cancer and Girl Wrestlers, Barefoot Wrestlers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Wives of Wrestlers \$25

APRIL 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Commissioner Helfand, Pete Herman, Regaining Titles, Bobby Boyd, Ace Hudkins' Life, George Dixon vs. Solly Smith, Joe Benjamin, Louis 'Kid' Kaplan, Quiz \$25

MAY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, How Floyd Patterson Will Fight Marciano, Ray Robinson's Problems, Jackie 'Kid' Berg's Life, Yama Bahama, 'Kid' Lavigne, Combating TV, Sam Langford, Bob Murphy, Boxing Lesson, Carl Tremaine, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Rocca, Ada Ash, Matches of Month, Old Timers, Prince Maivia, Wrestling Whirl, Jerry Graham, Red Bastien, Gossip \$25

JUNE 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ludwig Lightburn, Remembering Chicago, Tony Zale's Life, Rory Calhoun, Quiz, Ratings, Tom Sharkey vs. Peter Maher by Jim Corbett, Aurelio Herrera, Dave Shade, Readers' Gripe
Wrestling—'Hard Boiled' Haggerty, Wrestling Whirl, John Pesek, Killer Kowalski, Texas Hot Spot, Powerhouses, Matches of Month, Fan Clubs, Gossip \$25

JULY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Marciano, Max Schmeling's Life, Johnny Saxton, John L. Sullivan, Miguel Berrios, Larry Boardman, Quiz, Ratings, Joe Gans vs. 'Elbows' McFadden, Hollywood Legion Stadium, Ritchie Mitchell
Wrestling—Lord Blears, Matches of Month, Mexican Stars, Ramona TeSelle, Danno O'Mahoney, Wrestling Whirl, Roy Shire, TV Wrestling, Gossip \$25

AUGUST 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Bob Fitzsimmons vs. Peter Maher, Cherif Hamia, John Holman, Jess Willard's Life, Bucking TV, Johnny Summerlin, Joe Choyinski, Earl Mastro, Ratings, Bob Armstrong, Quiz, Gossip
Wrestling—George Drake, Wrestling Whirl, Chief Kit Fox, Matches of Month, Yvon Robert (Part 1), Why Wrestlers Bleach Their Hair, Bob Geigel, Gossip \$25

SEPTEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, 'Hurricane' Jackson, Will Marciano Fight Again? Mike McTigue, Bob Baker, Joey Giardello vs. Boxing Commission, Strange Anecdotes, Eddie Machen, Johnny Coulon, Paul Jorgensen, Terry McGovern vs. Oscar Gardner, Mike Gibbons, Ratings, Quiz, Letters
Wrestling—Buddy Rogers, Whipper Watson Wins Title From Thesz, Art of Needling, Yvon Roberts (Part 2), Wrestling Whirl, Dot Dotson, Matches of Month, Dick Nelson, Questions & Answers \$25

OCTOBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, Henry Armstrong's Life, Archie Moore, Jimmy McLarnin, Charley Joseph, Jim Jeffries, Jimmy Soo, Boxing Lesson, Kid Chocolate, Ratings, Quiz, Letters

Wrestling—Don Leo Jonathan, Wrestling Whirl, Fred Blassie, Billy Varga's Wife, Dangers of Wrestling, Yvon Robert (Part 3), Matches of Month, Letters, Fan Club \$25

NOVEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Art Aragon, Mario D'Agata, Tony Anthony, King Levinsky's Life, Johnny Busso, Joe Louis vs. John Henry Lewis, Ken Overlin, Ratings, Lockport Jimmy Duffy, Kid McCoy vs. Jim Stewart, Quiz

Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Around the Circuit, Slave Girl Moolah, Ratings, Matches of Month, Yvon Robert (Part 4), George Hubert, Fan Clubs, Letters \$25

DECEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Gene Fullmer, Jack Dempsey vs. Billy Miske, Harold Carter, Tex Class Fights, Jinx of College Fighters, Barney Ross vs. Jimmy McLarnin, Alex Miteff, Eddie 'Babe' Risko, Leonard Del Genio, Frank Battaglia, Ratings, Letters

Wrestling—John Paul Hennig, Wrestling Whirl, Rose Roman, Tag Team Situation, Matches of Month, Jim Wright, Bull Montana's Wife, Are Fans Crazy? Letters \$25

WRESTLING REVUE

WRESTLING REVUE (1959-1964) is thought to be the finest series of wrestling magazines ever published. These beautiful editions (all edited and published by Stanley Weston) set a standard by which all of today's wrestling magazines are judged. The magnificent back issues in this ad, many of which contain spectacular full-color inserts, have been unavailable to the public for more than 10 years. Supplies of these collector's treasures are very limited.

FALL 1960	\$35
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AUGUST 1964	\$35
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TV WRESTLING ALBUM

TV WRESTLING



The first and still the Classic Album of all time. All 68 pages printed on the finest, heavy, coated paper. The Full Page portraits, 58 in all, of the world's greatest wrestlers of that era, some of whom are still active today, are all neatly bordered, ready for framing. And that cover! Ah, probably the greatest portrait of a wrestler ever taken, in full color. Buddy Rogers, champion at that time, is the subject. \$20

BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958 Stanley Weston launched BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS, which established an entirely new concept in the field of boxing and wrestling magazines. They consisted of about 65 percent boxing and 35 percent wrestling in content of the finest writing and photographs ever published. Most of the very rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale in almost 20 years, and they are among the most highly prized Collector's Issues of all time.

NOVEMBER 1958	\$25
DECEMBER 1958	\$35
OCTOBER 1959	\$45
NOVEMBER 1959	\$40
JANUARY 1960	\$40
FEBRUARY 1960	\$40
MARCH 1960	\$45
JULY 1960	\$40
AUGUST 1960	\$50
OCTOBER 1960	\$50
NOVEMBER 1960	\$35

THE CLASSIC 1960 TV WRESTLING ALBUM

The first and still the Classic Album of all time. All 68 pages printed on the finest, heavy, coated paper. The Full Page portraits, 58 in all, of the world's greatest wrestlers of that era, some of whom are still active today, are all neatly bordered, ready for framing. And that cover! Ah, probably the greatest portrait of a wrestler ever taken, in full color. Buddy Rogers, champion at that time, is the subject. \$20

DECEMBER 1960	\$35
JANUARY 1961	\$40
MARCH 1961	\$35
APRIL 1961	\$35
MAY 1961	\$50
JUNE 1961	\$50
SEPTEMBER 1961	\$35
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DECEMBER 1961	\$35
JANUARY 1962	\$40
FEBRUARY 1962	\$40
MAY 1962	\$35
JUNE 1962	\$35
APRIL 1963	\$35
MAY 1963	\$40
DECEMBER 1963	\$40
APRIL 1964	\$35
JUNE 1964	\$35
AUGUST 1964	\$25
OCTOBER 1964	\$40
NOVEMBER 1964	\$40

TV BOXING



To meet the public's growing hunger for up-to-the-minute information generated by regular boxing matches shown on the new television medium, Stanley Weston created a new magazine in 1953 to meet the demands. TV BOXING was unique in every way, and while its life's span was less than two years, it established itself as a milestone in the field of boxing magazines. The extremely rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale since 1954.

OCTOBER 1953	\$25
NOVEMBER 1953	\$35
JANUARY 1954	\$25
FEBRUARY 1954	\$30
MARCH 1954	\$25
APRIL 1954	\$25
MAY 1954	\$25
JULY 1954	\$30

1953 BOXING ANNUAL



This cherished collector's issue consisted of 100 pages of seemingly endless photographs, statistics and complete records of the leading fighters of the day: Marciano, Robinson, Gavilan, DeMarco, Carter, Saddler, Moore. The list goes on and on. And well over 100 great pictures, some in a glowing red tint. We guarantee that this fabulous 1953 Boxing Annual will turn back the clock and make you feel like you are living in those times, thrilling to the unforgettable performances of some of the greatest fighters who ever lived. This was the first Boxing Annual ever published, and to this day it still retains its title: The Best of All Time—The Champion of Champions! \$50

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Box 48
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SEND ME THE BACK ISSUES I'VE LISTED BELOW

Please write in magazine name and date
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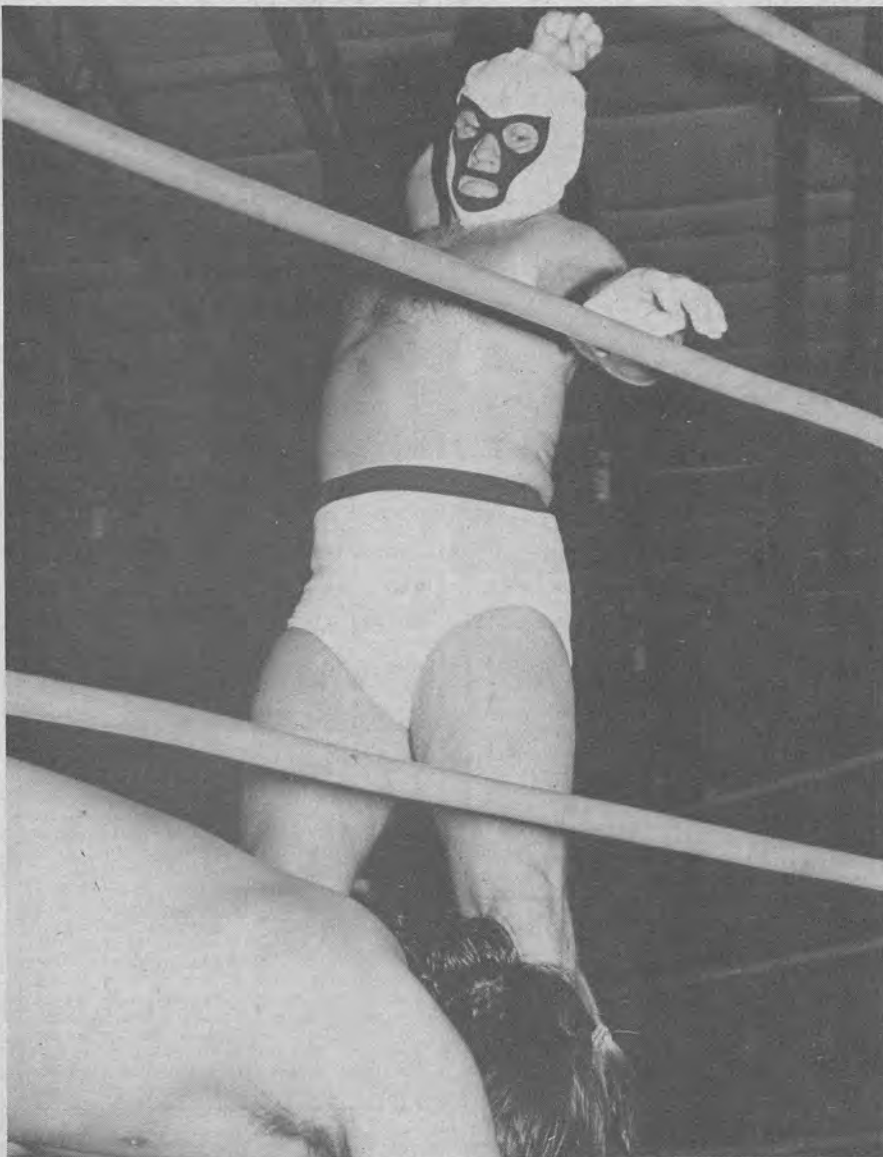
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In The Event Any Of The Above Magazines Are Sold Out, I Will Accept The Substitute Issues Listed Below

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THE RAGE MR. WRESTLING II CAN NO LONGER CONTROL

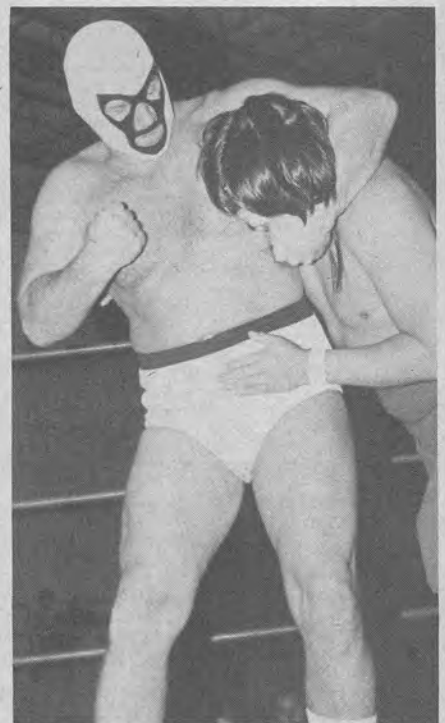


There is an unfamiliar look in Mr. Wrestling II's eyes (above), the look of a man driven by hateful rage. Contrary to the style that has brought him worldwide respect from his peers and fans alike, II fires a clenched fist into Mr. Sonoda's face (top right).

MR. WRESTLING II has always been a model of propriety and fair play for young wrestling fans all across the country and around the world. For years he has commanded the respect of millions as one of the sport's premier role models for fans of all ages.

For these reasons, Mr. Wrestling II's actions recently in Georgia take on a confusing, and ultimately disturbing character.

The scene was outside the arena where Mr. Wrestling II had just gone up against Mr. Sonoda. It was a situation that had been repeated literally hundreds of times



previously: a large throng of admiring fans surrounding him and begging for a handshake, an autograph, a chance to talk to their hero if for only a moment.

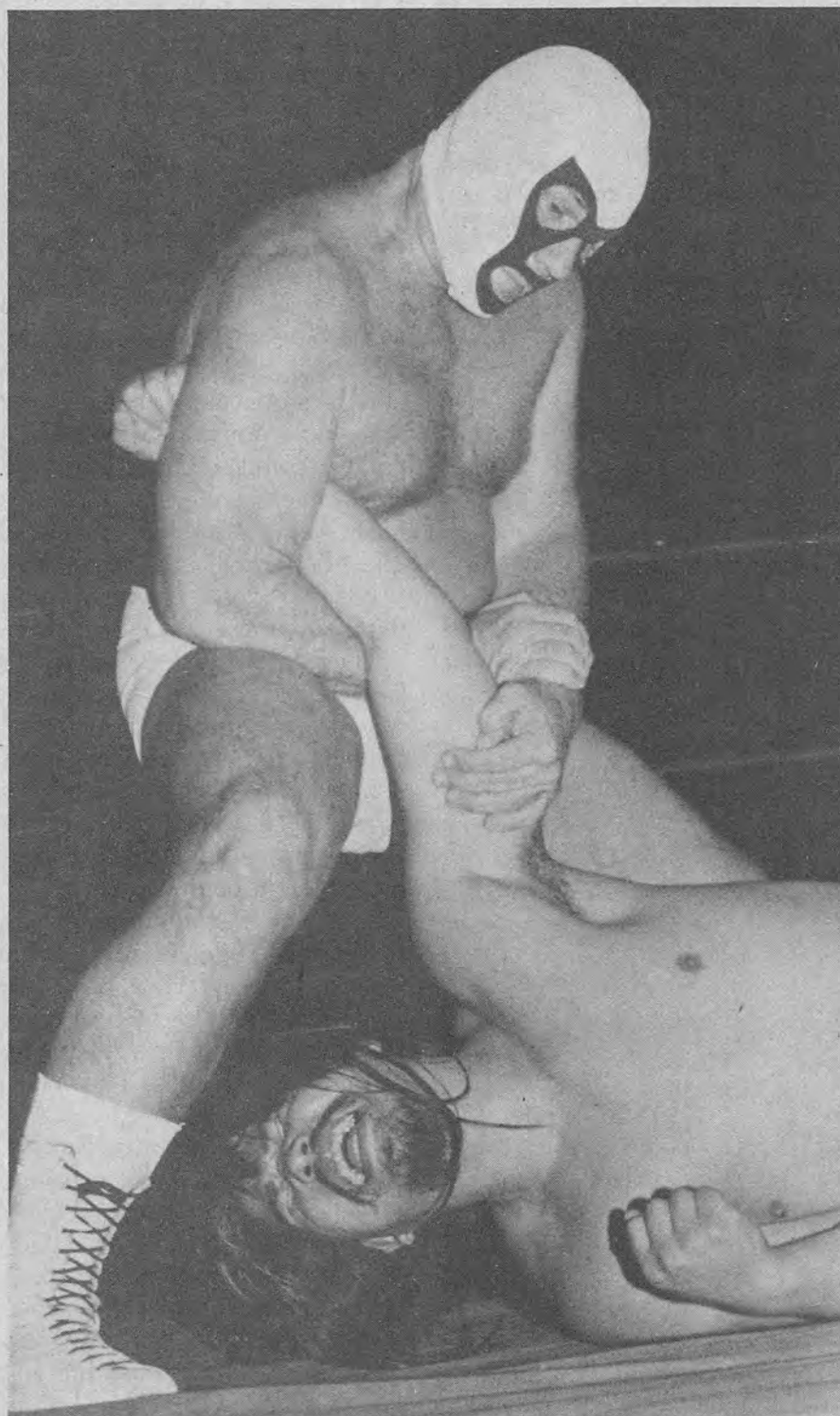
Yet this time, Mr. Wrestling II's reaction was markedly different from those other few hundred times. Instead of offering his hand in friendship, rather than providing his fans with autographs, he instead grumbled with annoyance and tried to walk away.

The fans would not allow him to do so. They followed with enthusiasm, still badgering the man for an autograph or a handshake. A meek voice, somehow audible above all others, called out a question that stopped II in his tracks. "How come you were so mean to Sonoda tonight?"

Mr. Wrestling II simply glared through the twin holes in his hood, eyes burning with contempt, and

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

For years, Mr. Wrestling II has been looked up to by wrestling fans all around the world. Lately, though, he has begun to change his ways. He no longer is the admirable master wrestler we once knew and admired. Mr. Wrestling II is undergoing a subtle and distressing change to . . . to nobody knows what!



Sonoda cries out in pain, but II will show him no mercy (above). In this exclusive photo, II receives harsh criticism from referee George Scott Jr. for his actions in the ring (top right).



again tried to walk away. Again, the fans followed him.

Finally, but with an enormous amount of hesitation and annoyance, II offered a few autographs, shook two or three hands, and sternly declared, "That's it!" He walked away briskly, discouraging a few more determined fans from following him any further.

Across the street from where this scene took place, five men sat around a table in a coffee shop silently watching the puzzling actions of their colleague. The largest of the five spoke first.

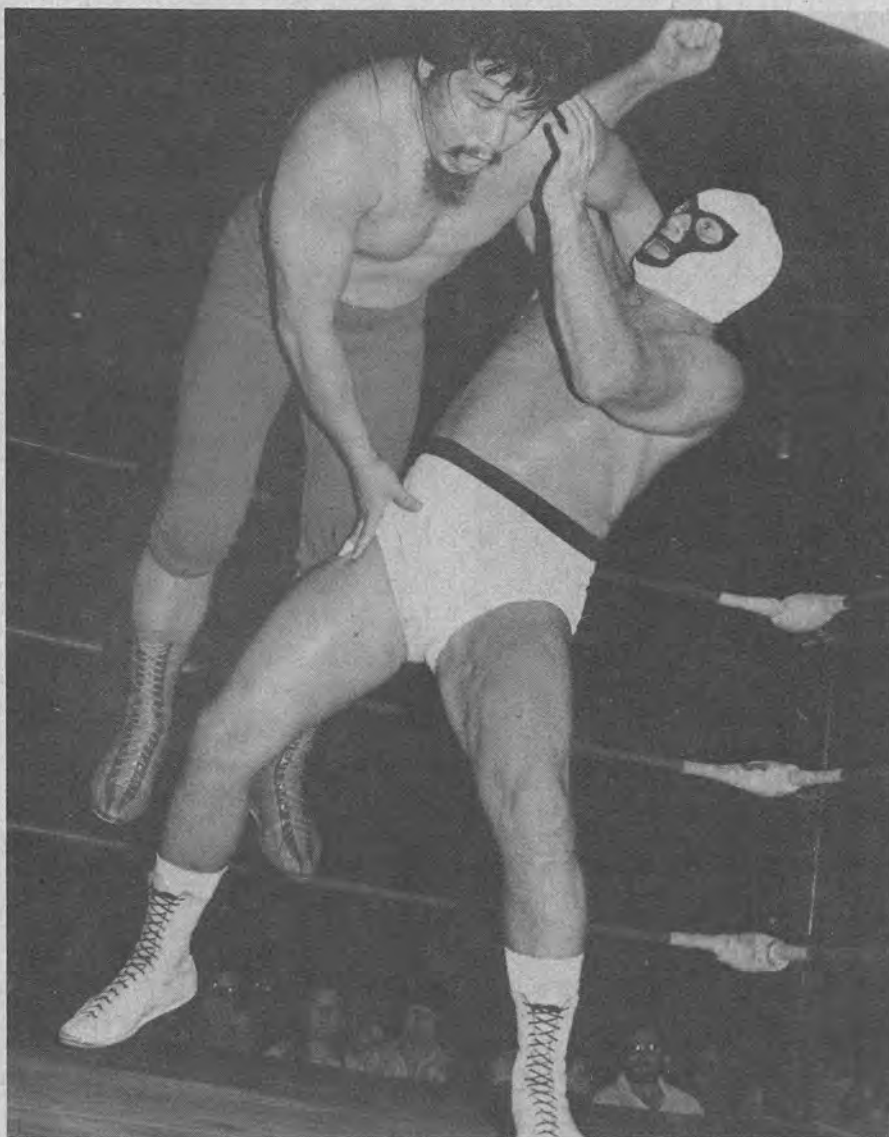
"He worries me," rumbled the deep voice of Andre the Giant. "He used to be such a kind man with the fans, patient and giving. He is not the same as he once was."

"Yes, Andre, I fear you are right," replied Bruno Sammartino Jr. "In fact, it's not only with the fans, it's with opponents in the ring as well. Did you notice how he was more aggressive than ever against Sonoda tonight?"

"Yes, you're right," added Kevin Von Erich. "Usually, if he's going to be giving a shot to his opponent, he'll use an open heel hand blow or



After reluctantly signing a couple of autographs, Mr. Wrestling II coldly walks away from his loving fans (above). With no apparent reason to hate Sonoda, many fans wondered why II utilized such brutal tactics (below).



a forearm smash. Tonight he was punching, he was pulling hair . . . I've never seen him like that before."

"Not only that," said Michael Hayes, "but he was arguing with

the referee. I've never seen him do anything like that. Just talking to him recently makes me worry about him."

"Why's that?" asked Tommy

Rich.

"Well," replied Hayes, "he was kind of mysterious, like he didn't really want to talk to me. But then he seemed to overcome whatever fears were eating at him and he began asking me about why I switched from rulebreaker to fan favorite. It's an understandable question, but the way he asked it sounded like he was not trying to understand me, he was trying to understand himself. I don't really know what to think about it."

"Did you see him on television the other night?" asked Tommy Rich. "There's a 'Most Popular Wrestler' contest being held here in Georgia, I'm sure you're all aware of that, and II comes on the tube and begins howling about how he's convinced that he's the one who is going to win, how he's got no competition in this state whatsoever, stuff like that. It's really weird to see him acting like this. I've gotta go along with Michael, I don't know what to think about it, either."

There was a long pause as the five wrestlers buried themselves in private thoughts. Each man was thinking the same thing, but nobody wanted to be the first to speak. Again, though, following a lengthy silence, the French giant broke the stillness.

"I fear he may be turning bad," Andre said. "I don't know why or for what reasons. He is obviously gripped by some sort of very disturbing aspect of his life that he can no longer handle. It seems to be taking its toll."

The others nodded in agreement, again retreating to the silent refuge of their thoughts. Each of these men now strives to be what they once viewed Mr. Wrestling II as being: a model of honesty, a man to be respected. If Mr. Wrestling II is now losing control over himself, why couldn't the same thing happen to any of them?

The silence at the table lasted a long time. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

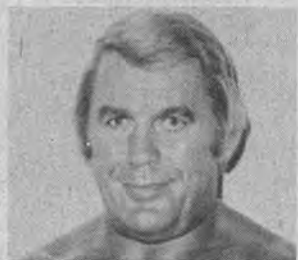


RED BASTIEN

The wrestler who was often referred to as "The Flying Redhead" is now involved in the business end of wrestling, helping to keep the machinery of this great sport running smoothly. Red, who held many tag team titles with his brother Lou, still wrestles periodically in the California area.

BUDDY ROGERS

Fans often drop by at the Playboy Hotel in Atlantic City to visit casino host Buddy Rogers and wish him well. Rogers reports that many of his old friends wish that they could see him in the ring again. We can say without reservation that this former NWA champion looks fabulous, and Rogers himself says that he could beat anybody wrestling today if he had to.

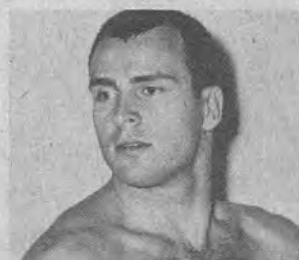


EDOUARD CARPENTIER

This athletic grappler, famed for his gymnastic abilities within the squared circle, wrestles occasionally in the Montreal and Detroit areas. Always one to keep in shape, Edouard still works out every day maintaining his grueling schedule of physical conditioning and maintenance. His strict adherence to a proper diet reflects his fanatical concern for healthy foods.

RICKI STARR

Fans in England are being continually thrilled by the mat techniques and style of Ricki Starr. His last appearance in the U.S. was in 1974. According to Starr, things are going well in England, and he is not planning a tour of the States at this time.



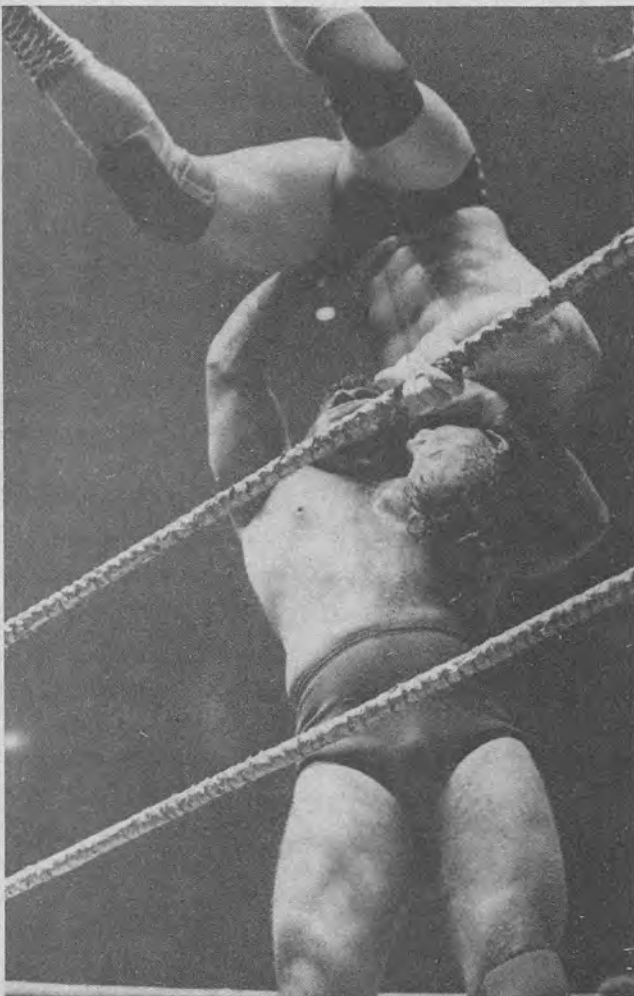


Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

NEW YORK, NY: It was a typical night for wrestling at the Garden. The sky was heavy with soggy clouds just waiting for the first opportunity to wring themselves onto the City. I made it inside before it rained, though, and joined the rest of the standing-room-only crowd for a card so large as to have forced Garden officials to lift the normal 11 p.m. curfew. The main event was a one-hour time limit match between Bob Backlund and Magnificent

Muraco, but that's not what I want to talk about here. I want to draw your attention to a match between El Canek and Jose Estrada. Towards the end of that match the masked man, whom everyone is comparing to Mil Mascaras, threw Estrada over the ropes and into the pathway leading from the dressing rooms to the ring. He then ran to the opposite end of the ring, rebounded off the ropes and came charging back towards Estrada. Taking a leap from about the center of the ring, he courageously executed a perfect dive through the bottom and middle ropes, sailed through the air, and landed on Estrada with the grace of a master gymnast. It was a beautiful sight to behold. I salute El Canek, and look forward to seeing much more of him in the near future.

HOLLYWOOD, CA: What with all the brouhaha being bandied about by Hulk Hogan about his starring role in *Rocky III*, I figured I'd better come out here and check things out. I could write a book about Southern California, and maybe I will



MURACO VS. BACKLUND



STALLONE VS. HOGAN

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

someday. But after seeing some of the previews of this flick, I'm not too anxious for the whole movie. I'll withhold final judgement until I do see the whole thing, but right now, I'm sort of aching for one of the classics. Remember *Requiem for a Heavyweight*? Now there was a movie. They just don't make 'em like that anymore. With Madame Spivy as good ol' Ma Greeny, remember? Ah, those were the days.

MONTREAL, CANADA: Well, friends, as it gets colder up north, the tempers get hotter. Witness the recent outbreak here of a heated feud between Dino Bravo and John Studd. Having terrorized most of the AWA, these two



JOHN STUDD

have decided to bring their battle to the fans up here ... and let me tell you, I don't think Canada was quite ready for this. If Dino Bravo can keep his cool (not too tough, what with winter soon to arrive), then he has a chance against the sleazy tactics of Studd. It's not going to be easy, though, not by a longshot. Kind of like trying to tame a lion with a footstool and no whip.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL: Saw the American Dream roar through this town lately, but I have to confess, I'm worried. Seems that the Dream has been plagued by nightmares of late, and I'm



DUSTY RHODES

beginning to wonder just how much they are taking their toll. I can say for a fact, though, that Rhodes, while not necessarily wrestling better or worse than in past matches, seems to be wrestling differently. I wonder how much all this nightmare business is affecting his head for wrestling, because I can see for sure that it's beginning to do something. I suspect that all of this is beginning to affect Dusty's attitude in the ring, though I haven't had the chance to talk it over with him, and how much it actually *is* affecting him is anybody's guess.

ATLANTA, GA: Spent some time down here with my old friend Bill Murdock. Drank a lot of whiskey and sat around reliving old times. Had the tube on for background noise when I hear Mr. Wrestling II's voice crackling through the speaker. What they're doing down here is running a "Most Popular Wrestler" contest, and that's what II was talking about. He was saying stuff like, "Early results show a good return, but instead of always voting for me, you should at least send in a vote or two for people like Tommy Rich here." I don't know what's going on with II, but I don't think I like it. His attitude is getting snottier. It's not like him at all. Bill poured me another drink while I listened to II continue. Nope, I don't like it at all. □

HOTSEAT

TONY ATLAS: “DO I HAVE TO TURN BAD TO BECOME CHAMPION?”

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED
BY STEVE FARHOOD

HE IS COMMONLY referred to as one of the strongest men in professional wrestling today. For good reason: his continued devotion to bodybuilding as a sport, as well as the intense workouts he grills his body through in preparation for wrestling matches provides him with a physique that stands peerless in the sport. As you will learn in this interview, he recently went through some hard times . . . times in which he nearly gave up wrestling altogether. He is Mr. U.S.A., Tony Atlas.

Q: First off, Tony, I want to thank you on behalf of *Inside Wrestling* for appearing in the “Hotseat.”

A: No problem, Steve, I’m always glad to talk to the

press, and through this magazine, directly to all my fans reading this interview.

Q: Well, let’s get right down to

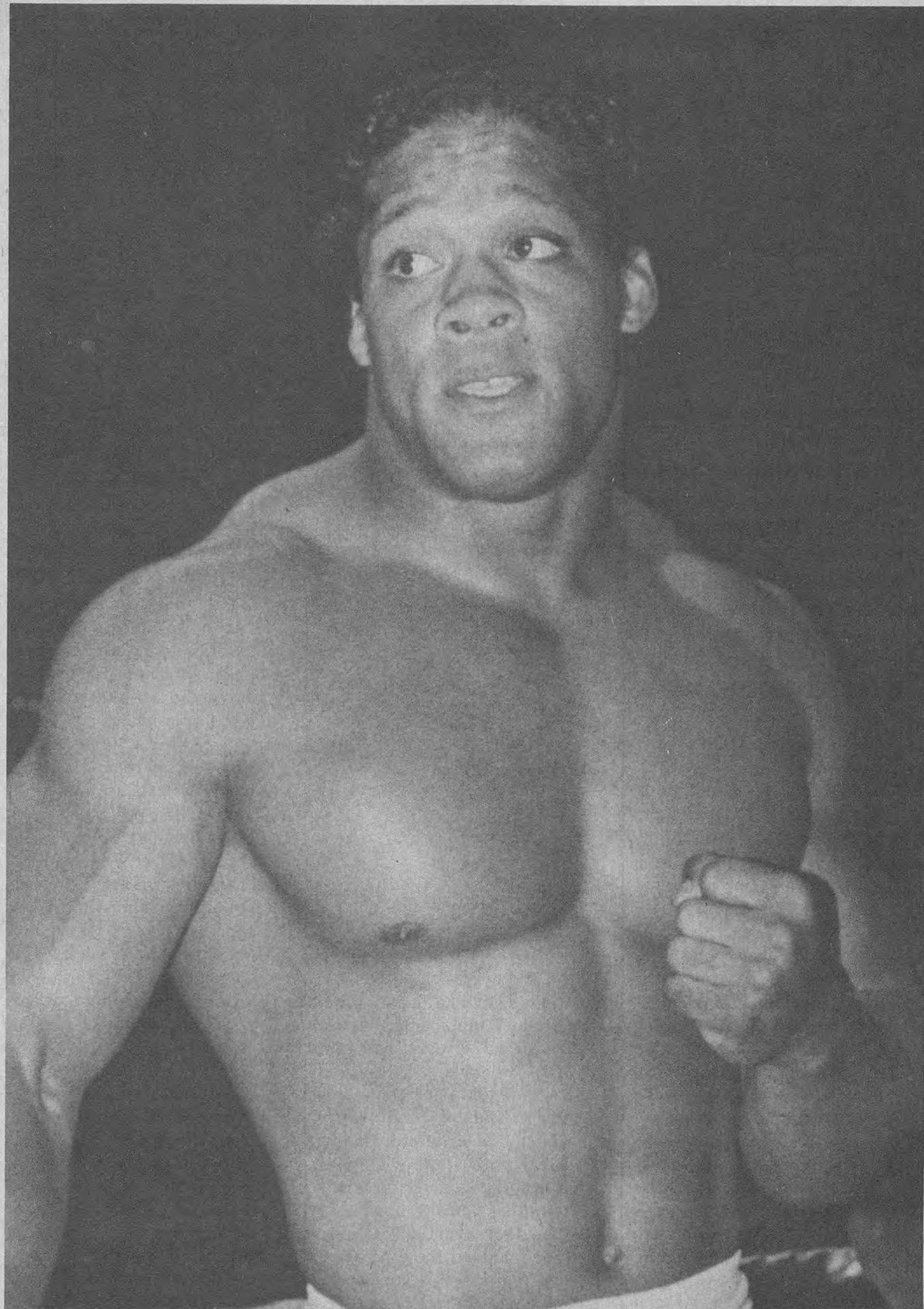
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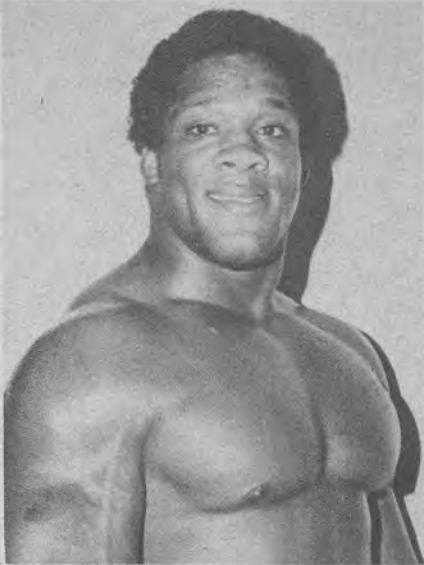
it. You’ve just come back from a three month layoff, a vacation of sorts. Can you tell us what you were up to during that time?

A: Well, at the time I took that break, I felt I needed some time away from wrestling. Because of a number of reasons which I won’t get into here, I felt for a while that wrestling might not be what I wanted to do with my life at that point.

Q: You mean you were thinking of quitting wrestling?

A: Just about. I suppose everyone comes to points in their lives where they simply aren’t sure about what they’re doing at that time, whether it’s the right thing for them, whether or not there’s something else that they ought to be doing instead. It’s a tough thing to go through, and it plays games on your mind. Without





“

When I'm relaxed I can think out my problems. It took me three months, but I finally decided that my doubts about this sport were completely groundless.

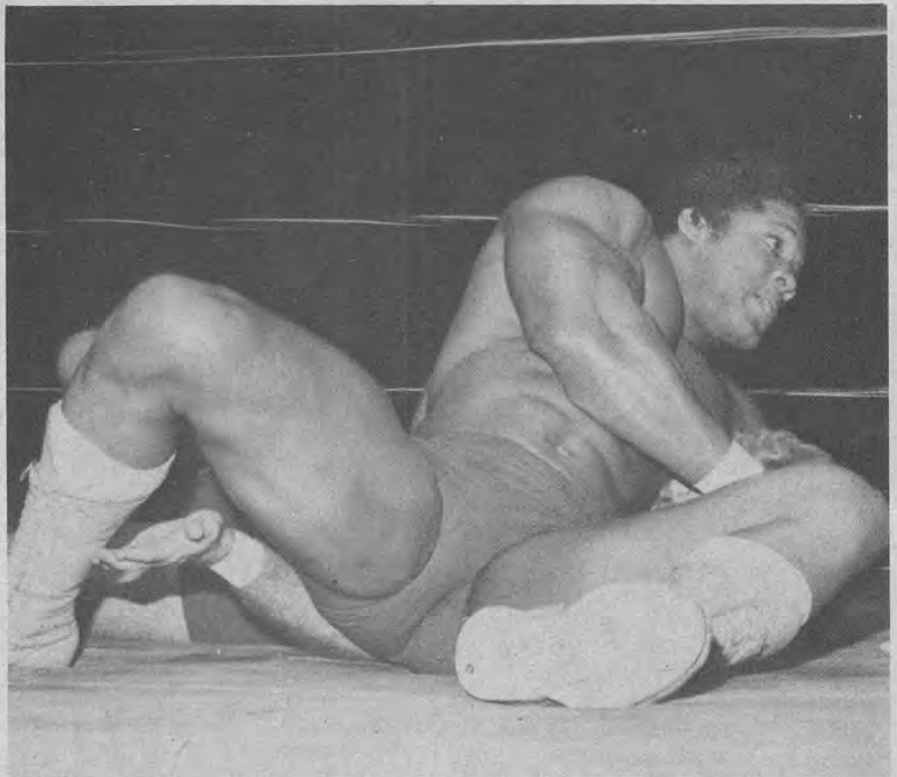
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getting into too much personal detail, I will say yes, I was at a point where I was considering that I might quit wrestling for good.

Q: So what made you finally decide to stay? You must have given it an amazing amount of thought.

A: Yes, well that's exactly why I took those three months off. I spent most of that time in the gym working on my bodybuilding. I find that working out like that can be a relaxing thing. When I'm relaxed I can think out my problems. It took me three months, but I finally decided that my doubts about this sport were completely groundless, that I was worried about other aspects of my life that had nothing to do with whether I should be wrestling or not.

Q: A lot of fans felt you let



Atlas wraps his muscular arms around his opponent's head and nearly forces a submission (above). Tony brings Moondog Rex to the canvas with a suplex (below).



them down when you left.

A: Yeah, I got a lot of mail about it. But I think now that my “vacation” is over, and now that I've explained why I did what I did, the fans will understand. I still worry about that a lot, you know, whether the fans will really be able to understand why I took that time off. I just hope that they eventually realize that I needed the time alone and that it was a good thing for me to do.

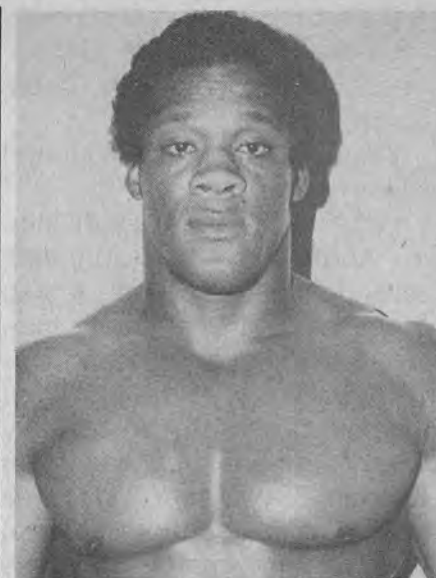
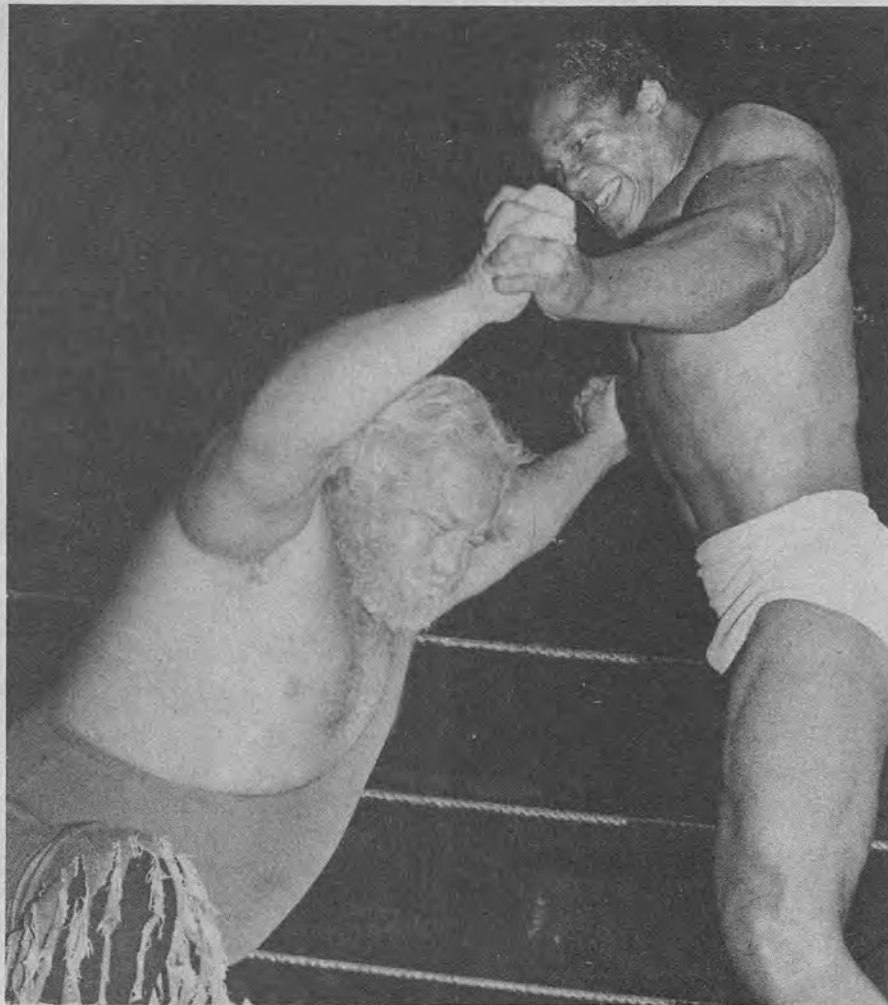
Q: Okay, we'll switch the subject a bit now. You've complained in the past, and recently made some public statements, about the fact that you can't get a title challenge. Would you explain to our readers why you say that?

A: Glad to. Let's just look at the facts. In the WWF you've got Bob Backlund. As far as I'm concerned, he's a wonderful champion. He's got a lot going for him, and he's a superb wrestler. Okay, now take the AWA: Nick Bockwinkel. Now I think Nick is a little too arrogant for my taste, but again, he's a fine wrestler.

Q: And in the NWA it's Dusty Rhodes.

A: Precisely. Another fine man who, all other things being equal, probably deserves the title as much as anybody.

Q: Two out of the three associations have champions that, well I suppose you could classify as fan favorites, “good guys,” or something like that.



**“
I’ve tried to be in that
ring against a champion
with the belt on the
line for the longest time,
but everytime I get
close ... there are always
some stupid excuses.
”**

Very few men are able to match Atlas in a test of strength as Rex finds out. Tony left the sport for a while to pursue his weightlifting interests, but now he is back and looking for a title shot.

A: Precisely. And who gets the title challenges? People like Killer Khan, Greg Valentine, Crusher, Roddy Piper. I’ll tell you, Steve, I just don’t know what to do. How can I get a title challenge for myself? You know, I’ve tried to be in that ring against a champion with the belt on the line for the longest time, but everytime I get close, either other commitments come up, somebody else made it onto the card first ... there are always some stupid excuses for keeping me out of championship matches. In the meantime, these rulebreaking maniacs get title challenges all over the place. Tell me Steve, what do I have to do? Do I have to become a rulebreaker to get a challenge match? Do I

have to turn bad to become champion? Because if that’s so, I’d have to say that that’s a pretty sad commentary on the state of wrestling today.

Q: Well, I can’t say I’m familiar with the specifics of your complaints, but it sounds to me as if you have a legitimate beef.

A: You better believe it.

Q: Well listen, you’ve gone up against a lot of these “rule-breaking maniacs” as you call them. How do they rate as opponents?

A: No competition, none whatsoever. Listen, Harley Race has been champion what, six times? Come on, give me a break! I’ve wrestled that old crow before, when he was champion, and you wouldn’t believe how awful he is. For

a champion! You see, what people forget is that even though he was a champion six times, he also lost the championship six times. That’s a record that stands alone in the record books, because even Lou Thesz had the good sense to retire when he was on top. Hey—that sounds good: Harley Race, loser of an unprecedented six heavyweight title belts! Kind of has a nice ring to it, don’t you think?

Q: I suppose. Listen, Tony, we’re running out of time here, is there anything you would like to say before we do?

A: No, only that I hope once again that my fans will support me now that I’m back.

Q: Tony Atlas, thank you for spending time with us on the Hotseat.

A: My pleasure, Steve. ☐

WHERE: NEW YORK'S Madison Square Garden in the heart of the city. Once again, it is sold out.

WHO: Andre the Giant and Killer Khan.

WHAT: Simply another step in Andre's path to ultimate revenge against Khan, a step that even for this giant of a man was taken just a little too far.

"Apparently, Andre just went berserk," explained Gary Queen, a wrestling fan from Garden City, New York. "I was paying close attention to him all through the match, and he seemed all right for a while. Then something snapped. Andre started in at Khan with incredibly intense anger like I've never seen. It must have caused Khan to suffer excruciating pain, though I can't say he didn't really deserve it."

What this fan who witnessed the match says is true: it did appear as if something snapped in Andre. However, it snapped before Andre ever entered the ring in the first place.

The timekeeper hardly had a chance to sound the bell marking the beginning of the match when Andre began his attack on Khan, an attack that was earmarked by unusually brutal tactics through and

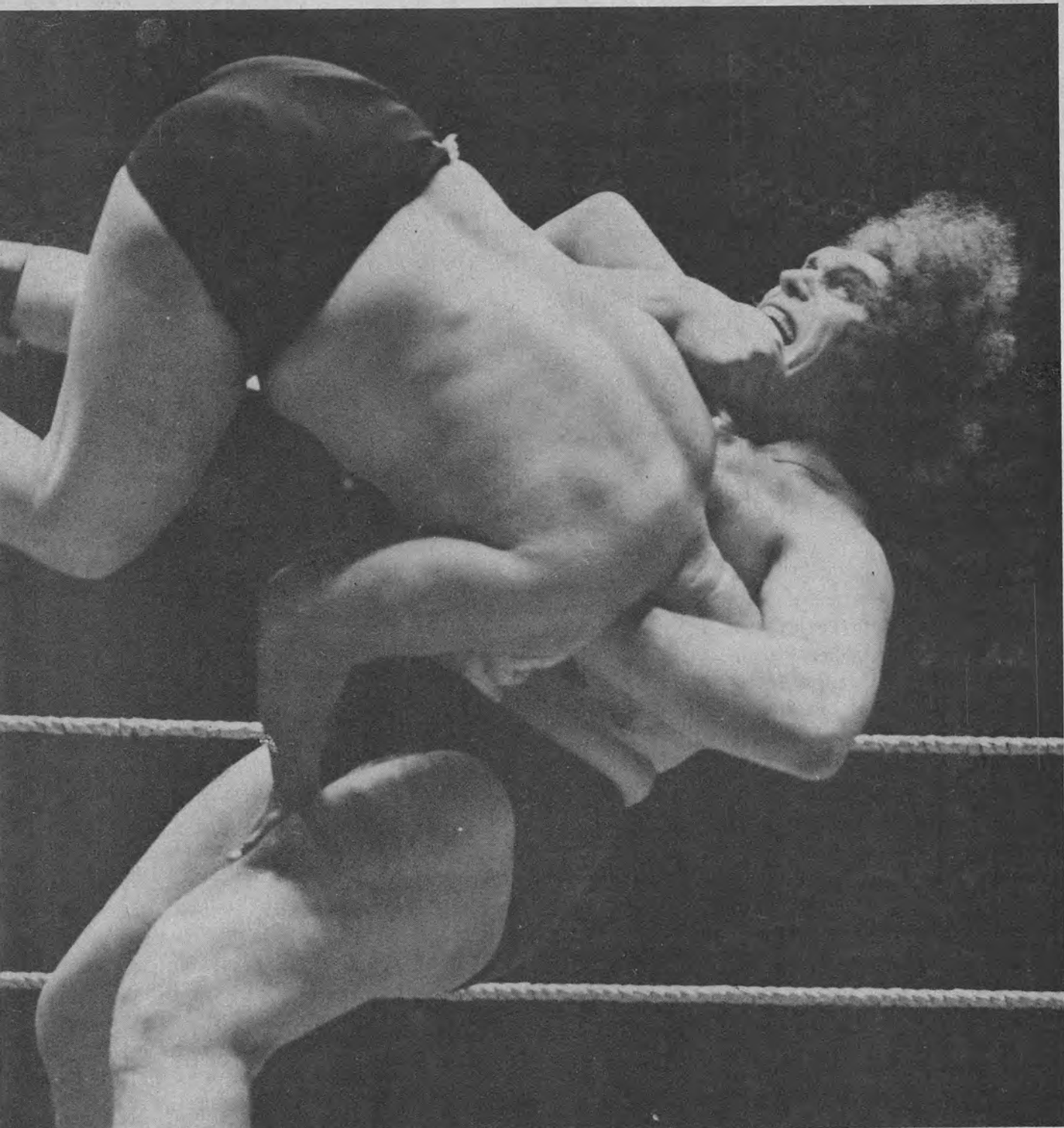
Andre vs. Killer Khan



An enraged Andre the Giant stomps relentlessly on a fallen Killer Khan (above). Khan has a long way to fall as Andre executes a suplex (right).

THE NIGHT ANDRE SHAMED WRESTLING

It was a night of terror and pain for Killer Khan. It was a night of much more than revenge for Andre the Giant. For this French behemoth exacted more than vengeance from the Mongolian madman, he exhibited behavior that embarrassed not only himself, but anyone and everyone associated with the honor of the squared circle



PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & STU SAKS

through.

Wrenching armlocks, devastating blows to the head and body . . . Andre was pulling out all the stops. Matters reached such a high level of insane horror that Khan had to retreat to the safety of the area outside of the ring more than once. Yet Andre always followed, dragging the abused Mongol

back into the ring for further punishment.

At one point after Andre had forced Khan back into the ring again, he delivered a thundering shot with his foot to Khan's head. By all rights, the match was over then and there. Khan was down to the mat on his back. The timekeeper had already rang the bell, but Andre

shook the Garden to its rafters as he bodyslammed Khan for one final spasm of agony.

"I can't believe he did that!" shouted one fan at ringside. "Did you see that? Khan was down and virtually counted out, but Andre came in and slammed him anyway! I've never seen him do anything like that!!!" (Continued on page 50)

INSIDE WRESTLING

65

capsule profile

ROCKY JOHNSON

FOR YEARS, he has been considered one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the sport (*"Hey, if you don't do things by the rules, then what does winning mean?"*) . . . Earned a reputation as a hard-nosed competitor with successful stints in California, Texas, Florida, and Georgia . . . Came to the Mid-Atlantic area about a year ago, but wore a mask and used the name Sweet Ebony Diamond (*"It gave me a chance to experiment with some new maneuvers. Since the fans didn't know who I was, they didn't expect much. I hope I convinced them"*) . . . Unmasked a few months ago, and was worried about the fans' reaction (*"Yeah, I thought they might've felt I was trying to pull the wool over their eyes. But they were great and gave me a lot of support"*) . . . Considers Roddy Piper and Ivan Koloff his most hated enemies (*"They are both bad dudes. They are ugly stains*

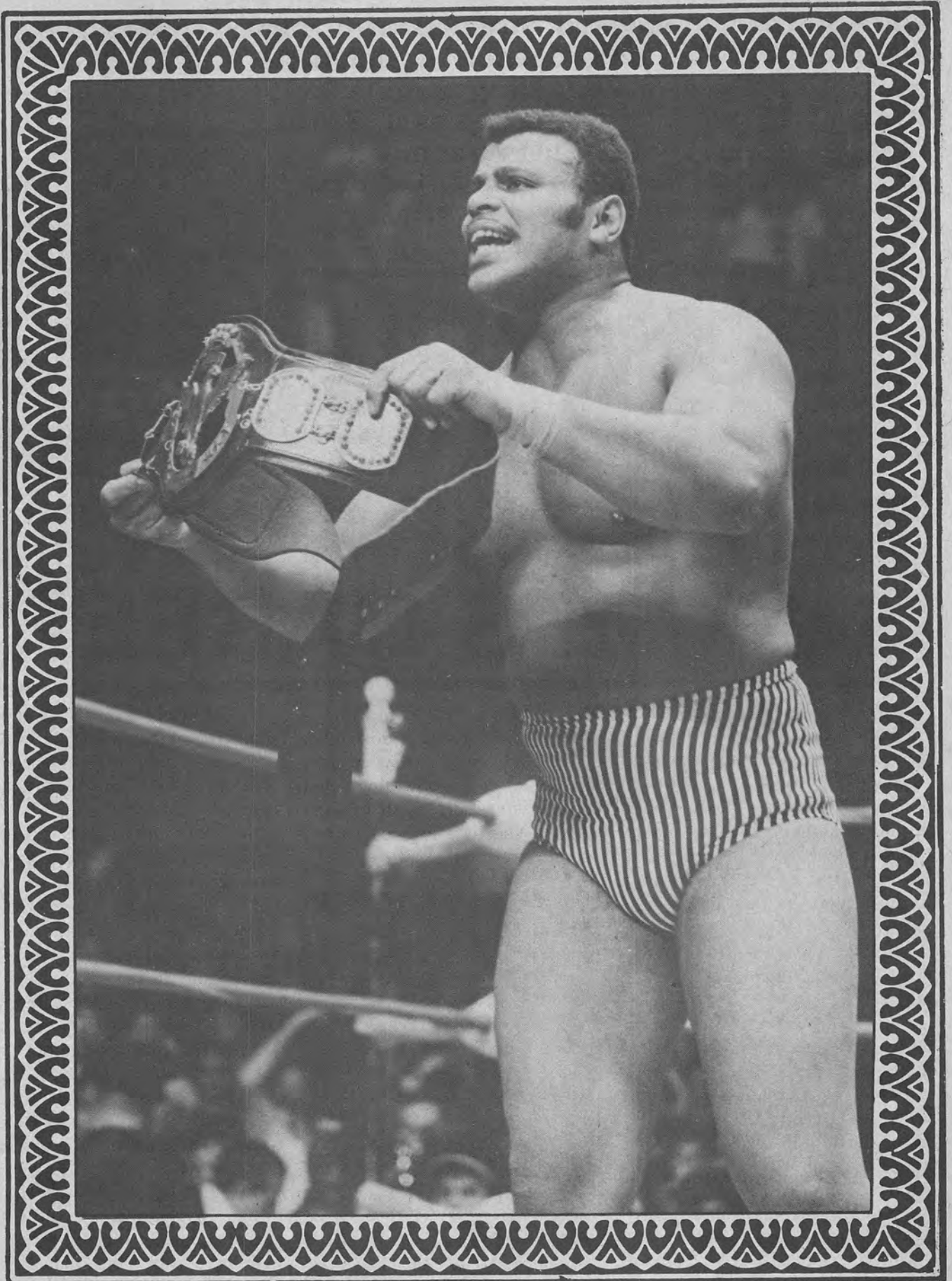


Johnson, who donned a mask and used the pseudonym "Sweet Ebony Diamond" for a period of time, hits Masked Grappler with a flying dropkick (above). Rocky draws a cry of pain from Terry Funk as he bends back the former NWA champion's wrist (below).



on wrestling, and the sport must be cleansed of their filth") . . . Many fans remember his classic encounter against Harley Race in Houston a few years ago (*"The NWA title was mine, but the man stole it"*) . . . More than 10,000 letters flooded NWA offices complaining about the Johnson-Race decision . . . Hopes to form a tag team and stop the Andersons from their brutal rampage (*"They must be stopped. I've spoken to Paul Jones and Rick Steamboat about it. Maybe two of us will get together and put an end to those two maniacs"*) . . . This Canadian-born athlete has risen to the top of American wrestling in just a few short years (*"The fans—I love 'em all!"*). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



ROCKY JOHNSON

Once he had unmasked, Sweet Brown Sugar realized that he had opened a veritable Pandora's Box of agonizing trouble for himself. Without the mask, it is as if Sweet is a thoroughly different person. The major problem seems to be that the fans are treating him that way as well



HOW YOU CAN SAVE SWEET BROWN SUGAR'S CAREER

SWEET BROWN SUGAR'S career is at a crossroads. Only you, the fans of wrestling, can hope to save it.

As you already know, Sweet recently unmasked in a match against one of the Masked Assassins. The resulting ramifications of that unmasking are only now beginning to make themselves known to Sweet. They're not making his life any easier.

"It's like starting out all over again," he remarked. "When I unmasked, I was a new man, a different man in many ways. As far as I was concerned, I could have been starting all over again from scratch, as if it was my rookie year all over again.

"Anyone who has ever wrestled with a mask," continued Sweet, "will understand what I'm saying. There's a certain attitude that one must take when wearing a mask.

There is a certain personality that it gives you in the ring. I don't fully understand why or how it does this, it's just something that happens. It's part of the reason why masked wrestling has such a long and revered history.



Sweet Brown Sugar, who voluntarily unmasked, drives Bobby Jagers to the canvas with a powerful right cross.

"Take that mask away, and it simply is not the same at all. You're a new man, and you had better be able to adjust quickly to the necessary changes."

Some of those changes involve a difference in attitude between the wrestler and the fans.

"As far as I'm concerned," explained Sweet, "the fans are the fans. Whether I have a mask on or not, it's still the same people you're wrestling for. But the difference comes in the way they react to you. They're the same people, but they react much differently.

"I'm not sure if it's better or worse now that I've removed my mask," Sweet said. "I know for a fact that it is different. It's even different down to the very subtle things... something like the way a cheer sounds through a mask or with bare ears. It sounds crazy, sure, but it makes a difference in the way you hear it. When you hear



Sugar finds that he perceives the reactions of the crowd differently without the mask (above, against Jagers) than with (right, against Terry Funk).

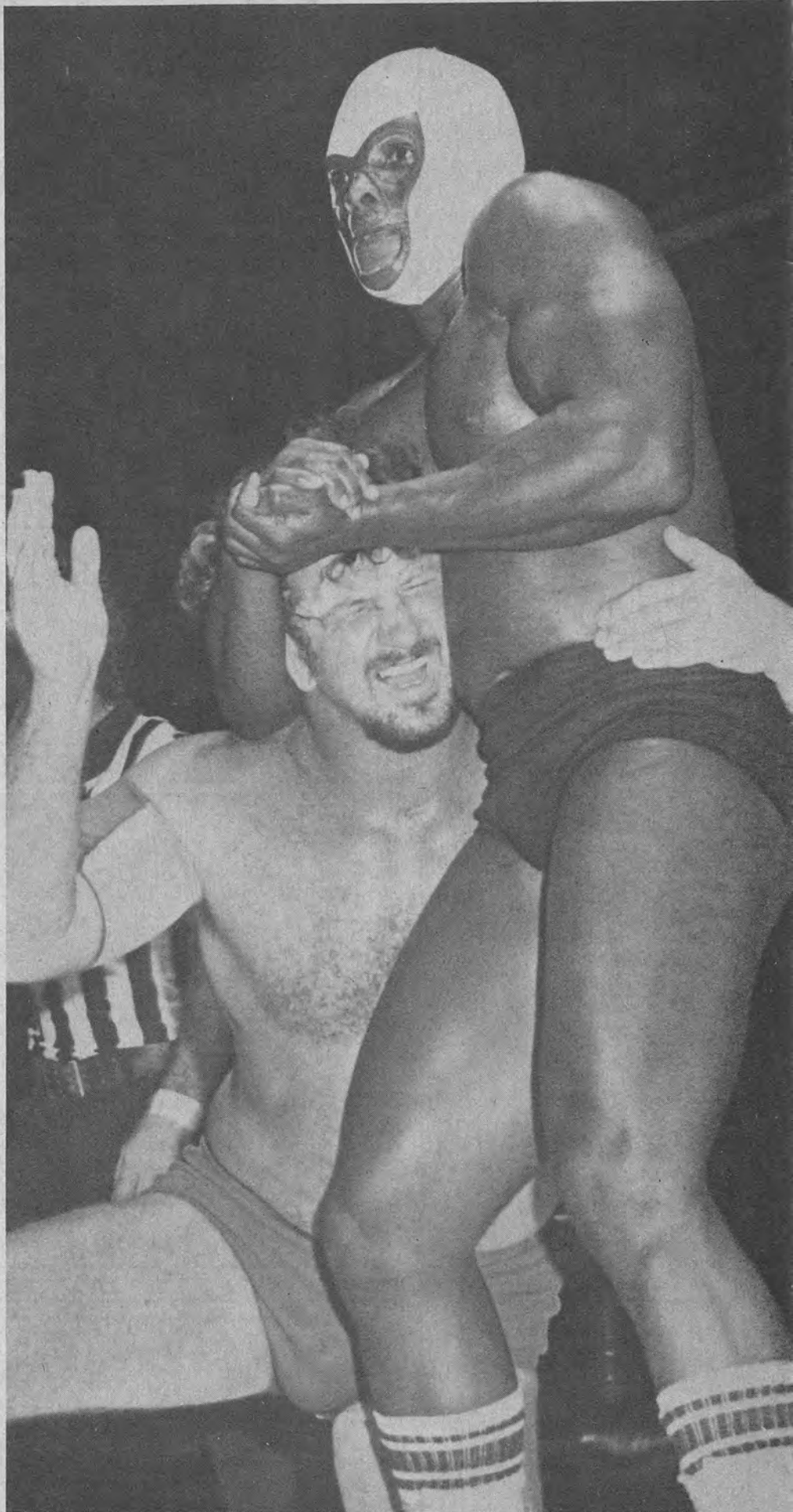
it differently, it means something different altogether."

The crux of matters, then, involves how Sweet perceives the different reactions he has been getting of late. Apparently he has been receiving mixed signals. Sorting out these signals has proven to be both confusing and ultimately disconcerting.

"There are times in the ring when I think that the fans are cheering me on more than anything else in the world," Sweet explained. "This happened often when my head was masked. Now, however, I find that the noise is louder, but that it's not necessarily cheers. There are other sounds mixed in with the rest of them. Sometimes it is very hard to figure out which sounds are which. Often, it is all just a muddy mix of noise."

The idea that a mask might affect sound seemed to be an

(Continued on page 64)

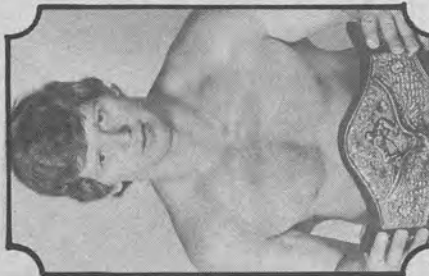


INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation



Champion:
BOB BACKLUND



1—MAGNIFICENT
MURACO

American Wrestling Association



Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL



1—TITO SANTANA

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
DUSTY RHODES



1—WAHOO McDANIEL

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—ANDRE THE GIANT



2—DUSTY RHODES

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—MAGNIFICENT
MURACO



2—RODDY PIPER

Tag Teams



1—THE ANDERSON
BROTHERS





2—GREG VALENTINE



3—KING KONG
MOSCA



4—GEORGE STEELE

5—PEDRO MORALES
6—PAT PATTERSON
7—KILLER KHAN
8—SGT. SLAUGHTER
9—RICK MARTEL
10—ROBERTO SOTO



2—CRUSHER



3—CRUSHER
BLACKWELL



4—HULK HOGAN

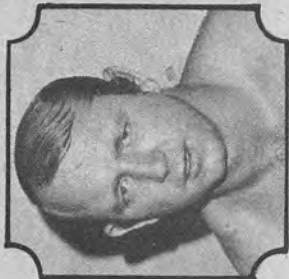
5—SHEIK ADNAN
AL-KAISSIE
6—BARON VON
RASCHKE
7—JERRY LAWLER
8—GINO
HERNANDEZ
9—GREG GAGNE
10—JIM BRUNZELL



2—TOMMY RICH



3—IVAN KOLOFF



4—DORY FUNK JR.

5—RIC FLAIR
6—HARLEY RACE
7—JOHN STUDD
8—PETER MAIVIA
9—BOB ROOP
10—LES THORNTON



3—BRUNO
SAMMARTINO



4—BOB BACKLUND

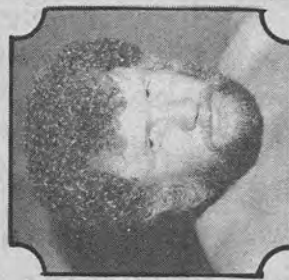


5—TOMMY RICH

6—MIL MASCARAS
7—RIC FLAIR
8—RICK STEAMBOAT
9—MR. WRESTLING II
10—BRUNO
SAMMARTINO JR.



3—GREG VALENTINE



4—HARLEY RACE



5—JIMMY SNUKA

6—KEN PATERA
7—KILLER KHAN
8—ASSASSIN #1
9—TERRY GORDY
10—KING KONG
MOSCA



2—TONY GAREA &
RICK MARTEL



3—GREG GAGNE
& JIM BRUNZELL



4—THE ASSASSINS
5—JIMMY SNUKA &
TERRY GORDY
6—IVAN KOLOFF &
CHRIS MARKOFF
7—MR. FUJI &
MR. SAITO
8—THE SAMOANS
9—GINO HERNANDEZ
& TULLY BLANCHARD
10—MASSA FUCHI &
MR. ONEIDA

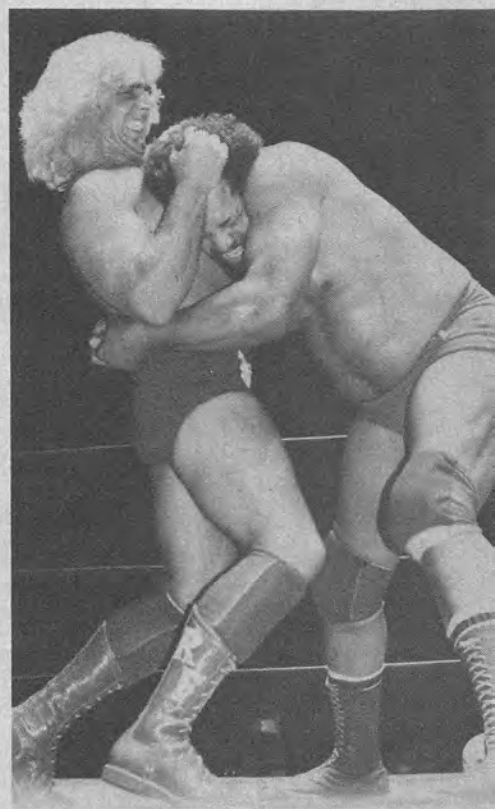
THE TRUTH BEHIND THE ERNIE LADD-DUSTY RHODES PACT

There are times in the reign of every champion when the pressure amounts to almost unbearable levels. This has happened to Dusty Rhodes. We've uncovered a plan whereby Rhodes may relieve this pressure . . . a plan which involves a deadly agreement between the champion and a hired mercenary

By Dan Shocket

THE TRUTH IS as plain as the belly on Dusty Rhodes. The new NWA champion, the same portly Dusty Rhodes, has enlisted Ernie Ladd to help him protect his NWA championship.

The pair haven't been so stupid as to put anything in



Desperate to free himself from Ladd's crushing bearhug, Ric Flair grabs a fistful of Ernie's hair.

**PHOTOS BY
BRAD McFARLIN**

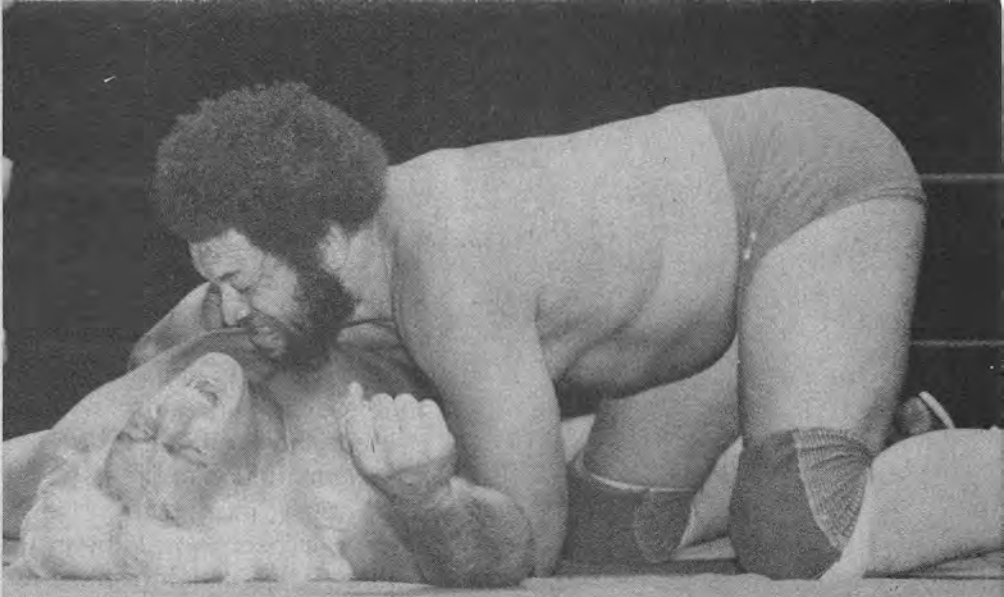
writing. The contract was made orally, and payments have been handled through intermediaries. Ernie Ladd is being paid to rough up any challenger to Rhodes' title.

It's done with all the cleverness these two veterans can muster. Ladd's first contract was against Ric Flair. Yes, the same man Rhodes pretends is his friend. Dusty has paid Ladd a considerable amount of money to render Flair harmless. There are no restrictions on how Ladd handles the contract. If Ladd destroys Flair's knees, ending the young man's career, that's the way the cripple bounces. Rhodes doesn't care.

Anyone who saw the match between Ladd and Flair in Columbus, Ohio, knew something was rotten. Ladd is the kind of guy who'll do anything to win, but he wants to win more than anything. On this night, Ladd's maneuvers weren't designed to win. He was looking to injure someone. The subtlety, the magic of his moves was gone. He was a hit man, dirty and simple. That wasn't the Ernie Ladd I know. But it was the Ernie Ladd that Rhodes paid for.

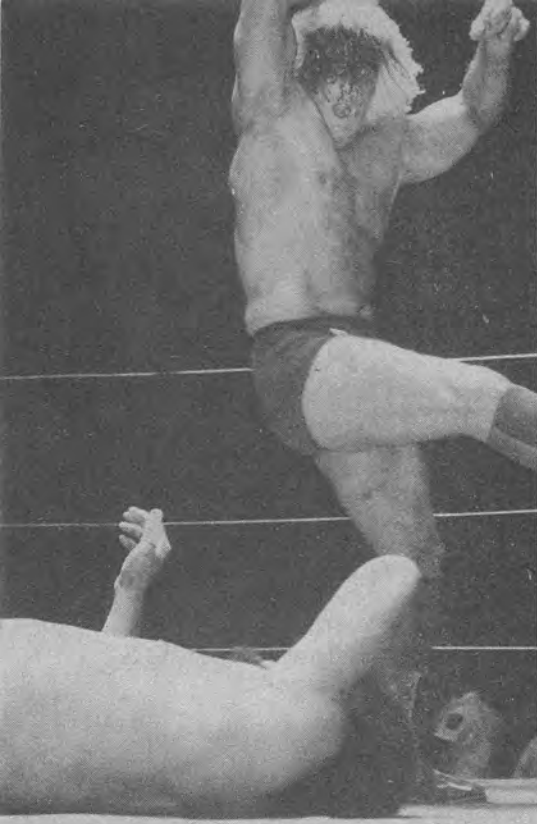
That night, Ladd put on a brutal exhibition of wrestling savagery. For most of the match, Flair didn't know what hit him. The assault made no sense. There was no reason for Ladd to want Flair maimed. Even the referee was too stunned to stop Ladd's rampage. What the hell was going on?

By the time everyone figured out Ladd was a hit man, it was almost too late. Flair was weakened but managed to get just as dirty as his tormentors. What followed had nothing to do with wrestling. It was the kind of battle one expects at three in the morning down in some deserted alley when the warriors are angry and sad at life, goaded on



Was Ladd more brutal than normal in his match against Flair (above)? **INSIDE WRESTLING'S** Dan Shocket thinks so, and he also knows the reason why. Dusty Rhodes (below) paid a large sum of money for Ladd's services, Shocket writes.





by the sting of bile that tortures the top of their throats. There is no rhyme or reason to this kind of war. The brawl exists for itself and the brawlers are its captives.

The match went on longer than it should have. But the referee too, was transfixed by the battle's savage life. He should have ended it with a double-disqualification. Instead, the time limit ran out. It was the fitting conclusion to a match that was never meant to have a winner or loser. It was meant to render Ric Flair defenseless for his title challenge to Dusty Rhodes.

In that, it succeeded. Rhodes kept his belt when he wrestled

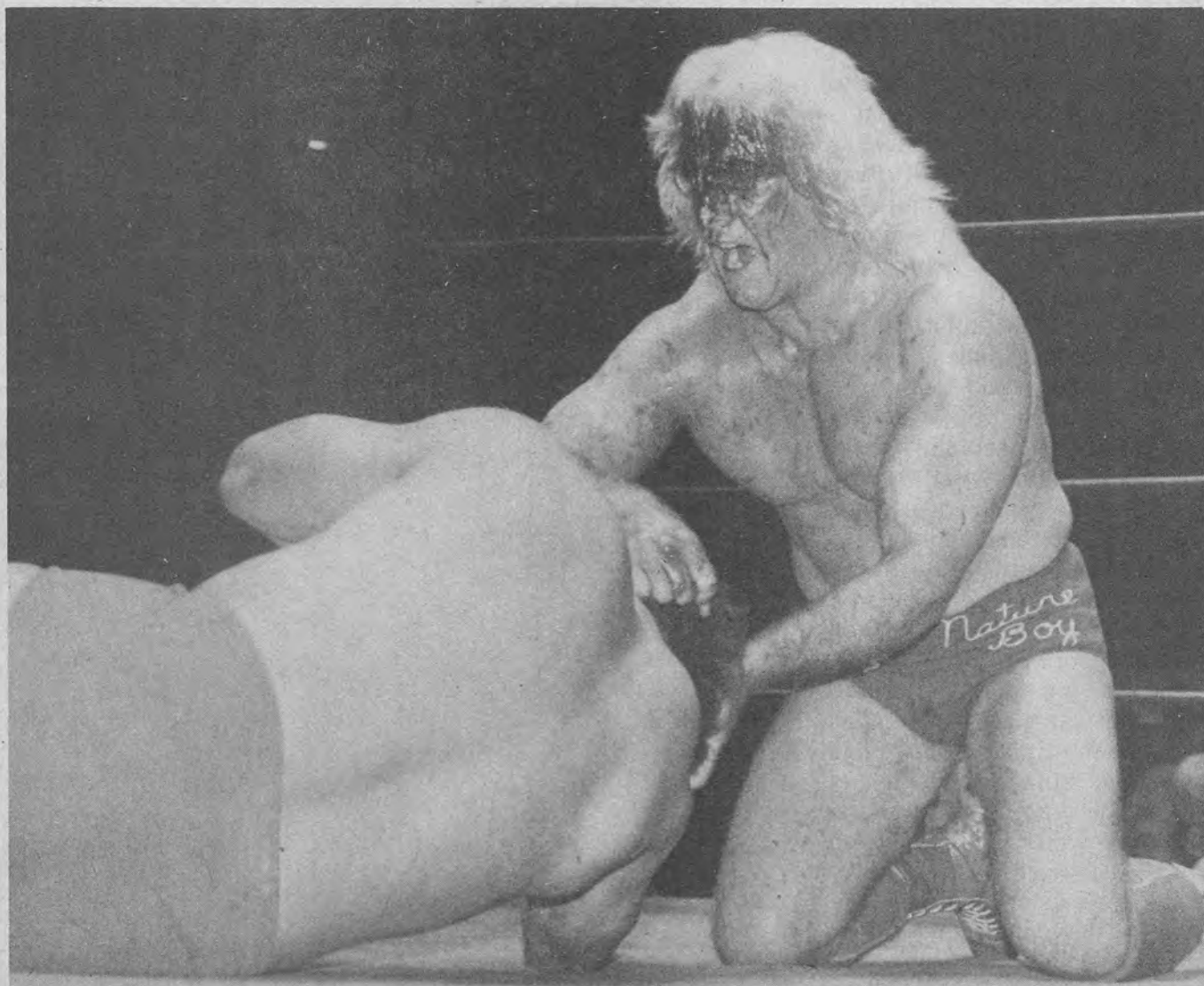
Flair later that month. It didn't take an expert to see that Ric was clumsier than usual, protecting certain parts of his body that were strained and sore. His arms were especially sluggish and weak, the result of bruised ribs. The ribs were bruised by Ladd.

When confronted with the accusation that Ladd is his hit man, Rhodes said, "That's a lie! I wouldn't do something like that. I respect the title and everything it stands for. I also respect wrestling and myself. The whole story is absurd."

Ladd doesn't answer the charge with inflated talk.

(Continued on page 57)

Blood flowing from several deep cuts on his forehead, Flair finds the strength to make a last-ditch comeback attempt. Almost blinded by the hideous red flow, Flair aims an elbow at his opponent (left) and pulls his ears (below).

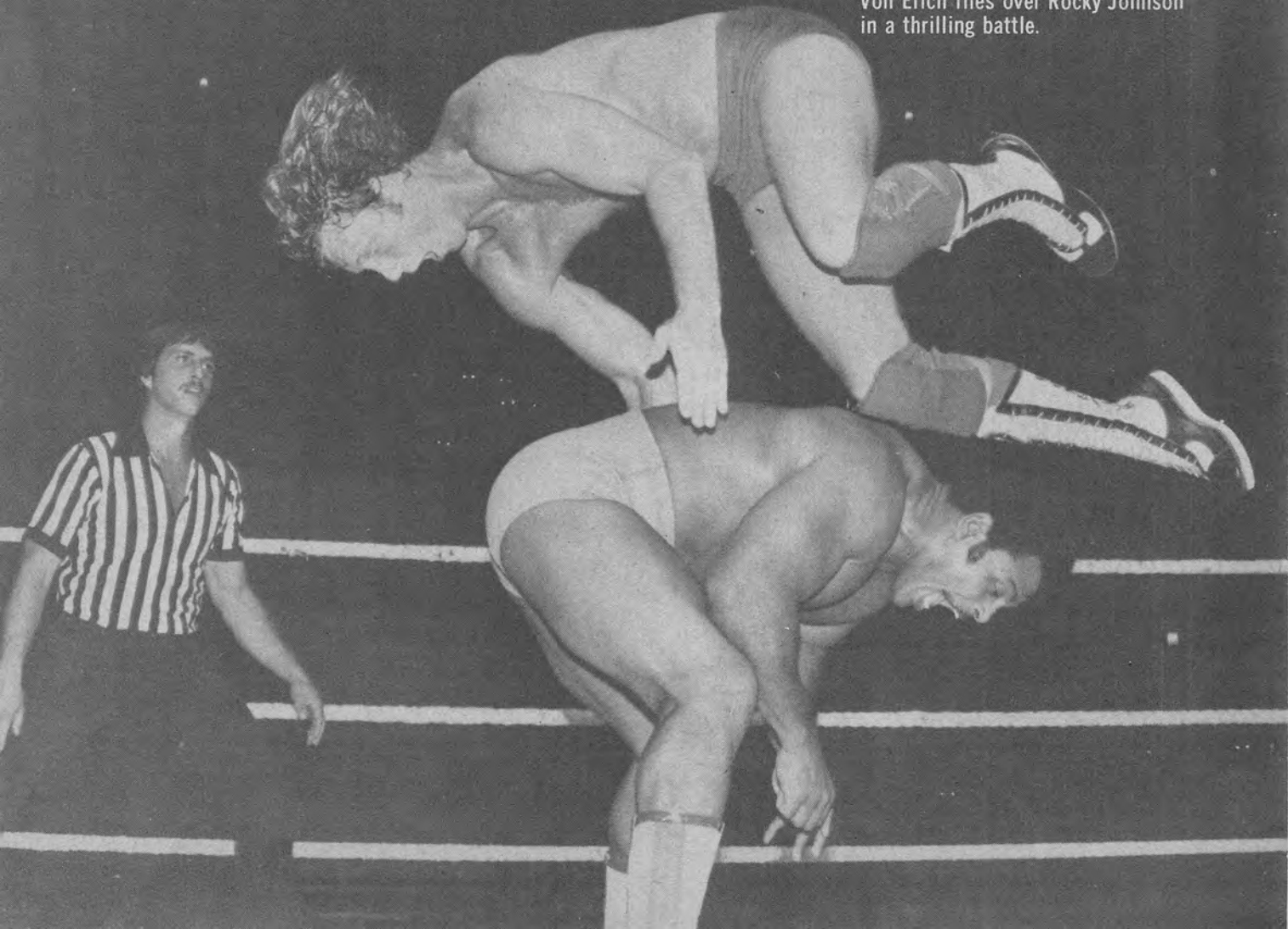


ST. LOUIS WRESTLING GATEWAY TO MAYHEM

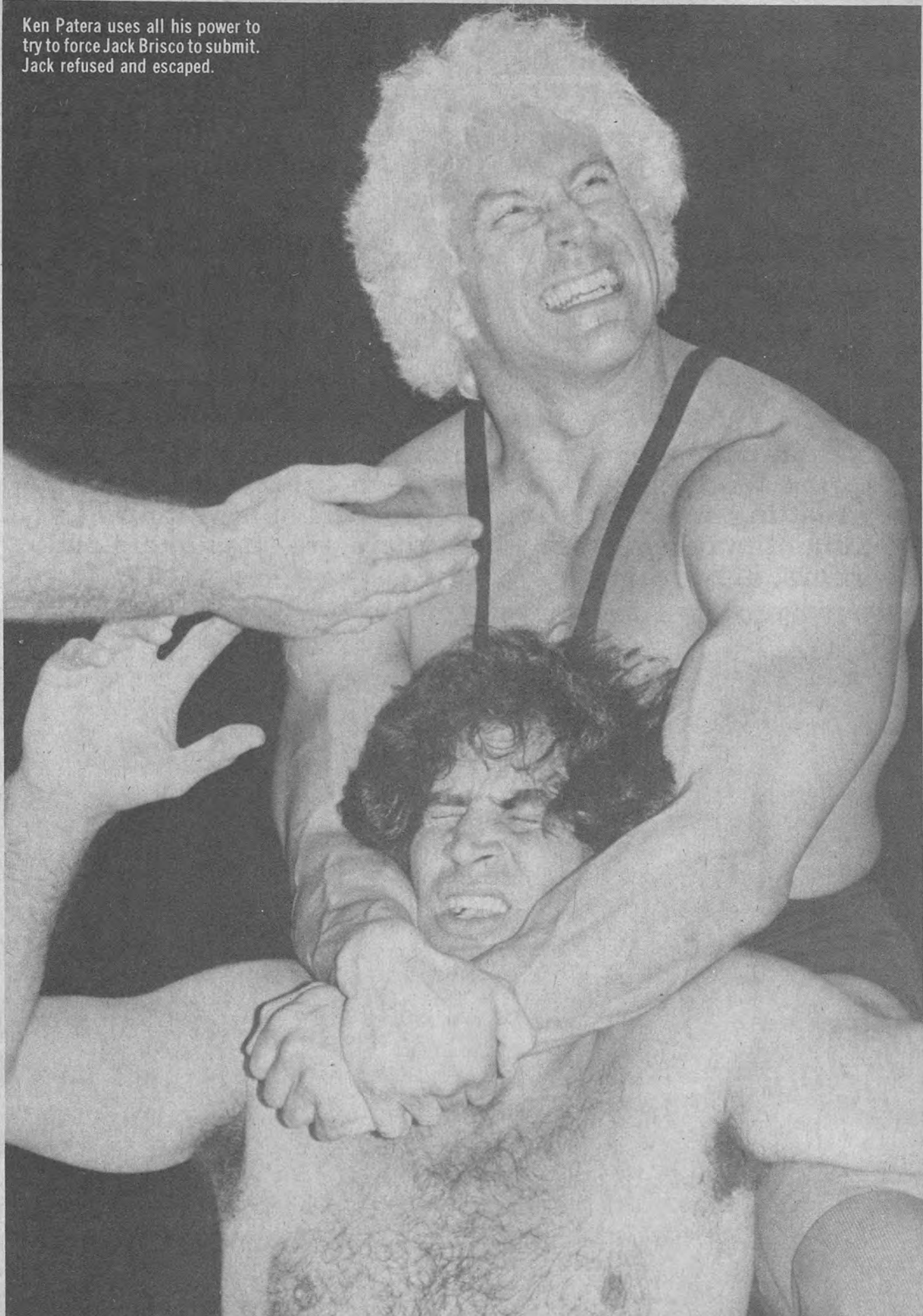
PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

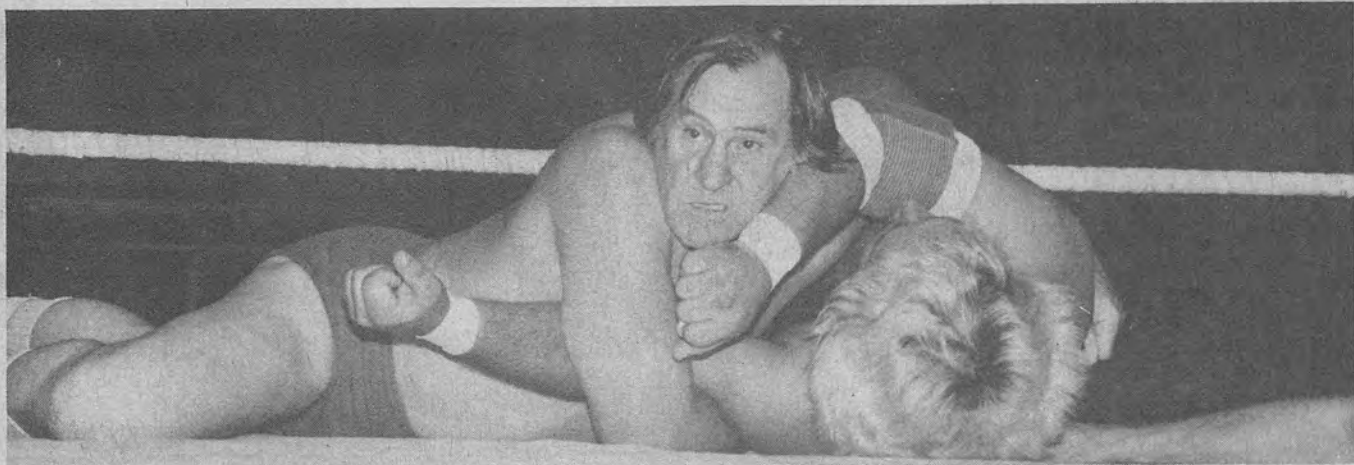
Not far from the towering arch known as "The Gateway to the West," men were locked in brutal combat in a wrestling arena. This is a study of St. Louis grappling, a kind of mayhem from which there are no winners and losers, only survivors

It's peak action in St. Louis as David Von Erich flies over Rocky Johnson in a thrilling battle.

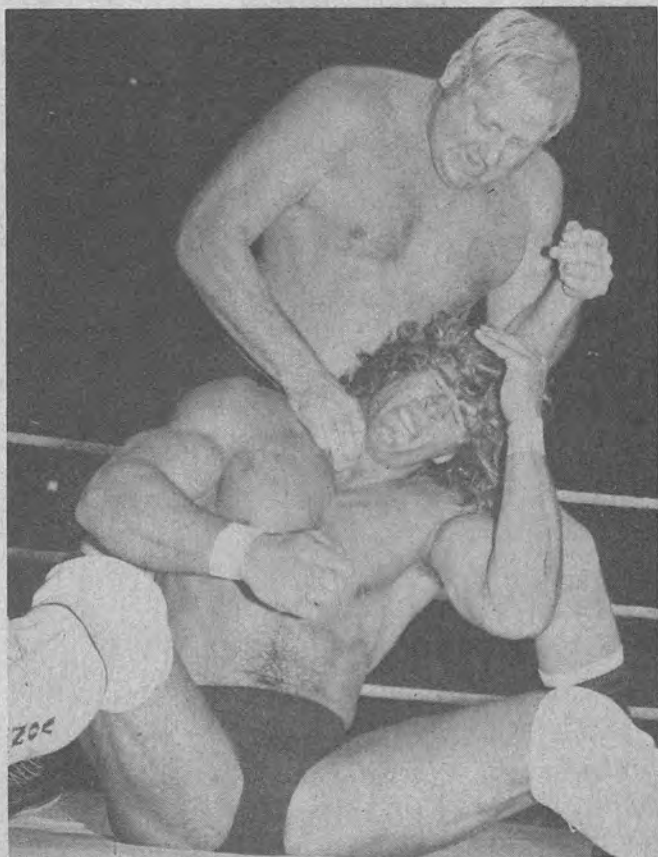
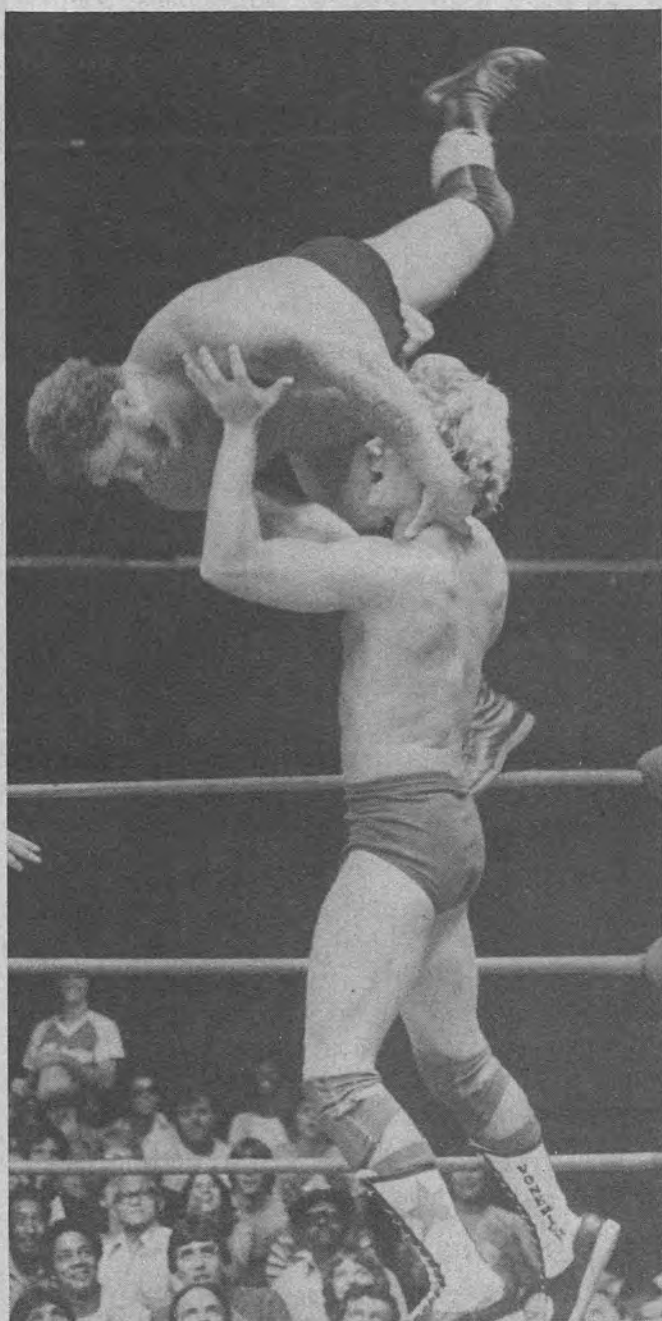


Ken Patera uses all his power to try to force Jack Brisco to submit. Jack refused and escaped.



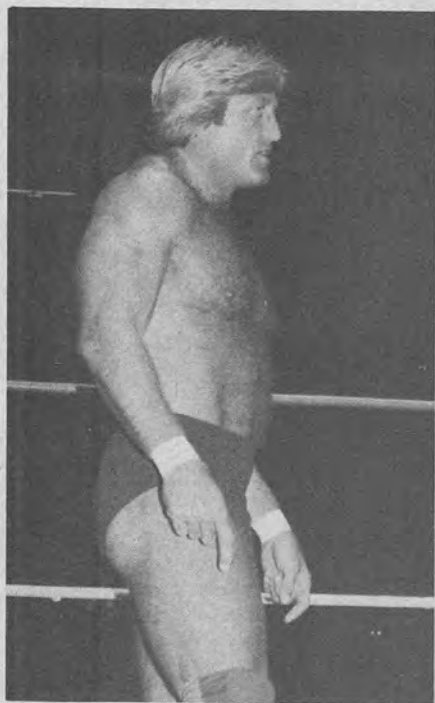


Veteran Pat O'Connor, a former NWA champion, grapples with "Hangman" Bobby Jagers (above). Another former NWA champ is on the wrong end of a David Von Erich slam (below). It's Harley Race who barely escapes a loss to young Von Erich.



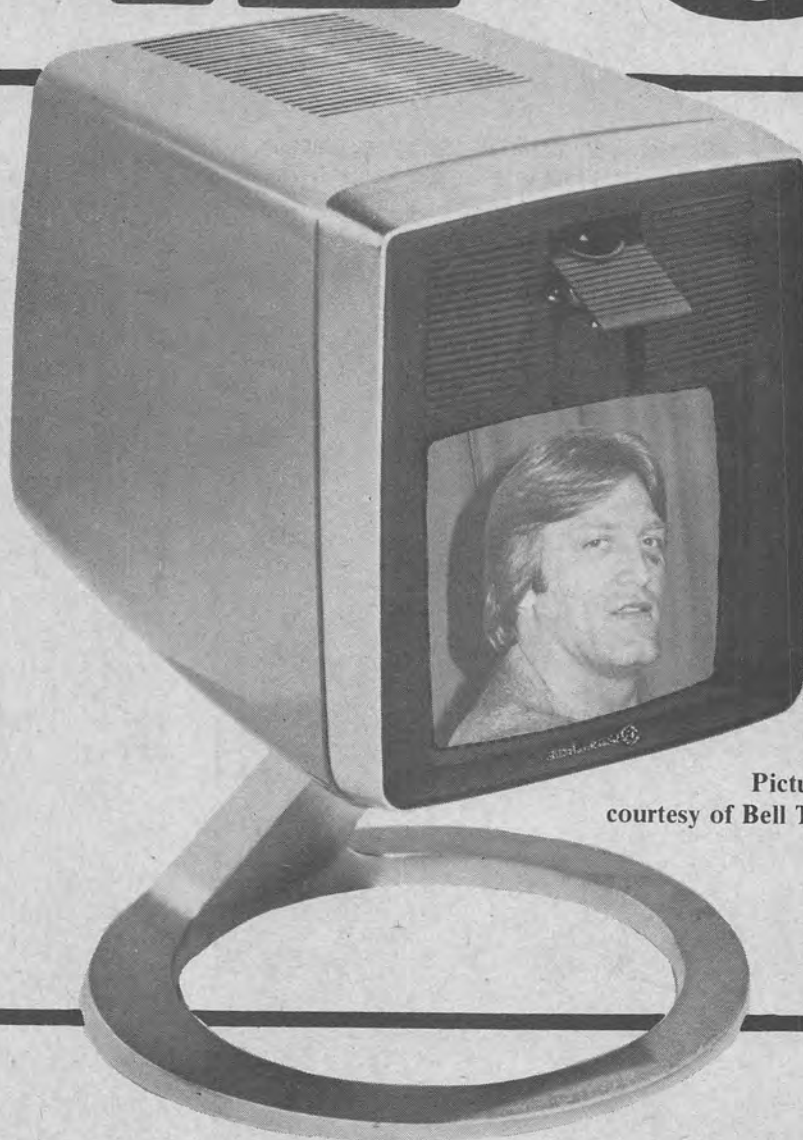
A nervehold has Kerry Von Erich in pain (above) as Dick Murdoch continues to apply the pressure. St. Louis promoter Sam Muchnick (left) has been promoting since 1945. "I only bring the fans the very best on every show," Sam says. Sam is one of the most influential men in wrestling.

ONE ON



PAUL ORNDORFF

(It all started when Paul Orndorff overslept for a title match against Masked Grappler for Grappler's North American title. Jake Roberts substituted for Orndorff and won the title. Now Orndorff feels betrayed, believing Roberts should have at least tried to make contact with him before taking the match. Now the two men are bitter enemies. For their conversation, Roberts was in the New Orleans promoters' office. Orndorff was at his home.)



Picturephones
courtesy of Bell Telephone

JAKE ROBERTS:

So nice to see you woke up for this conversation.

PAUL ORNDORFF:

It's no surprise to see you call me when you want.

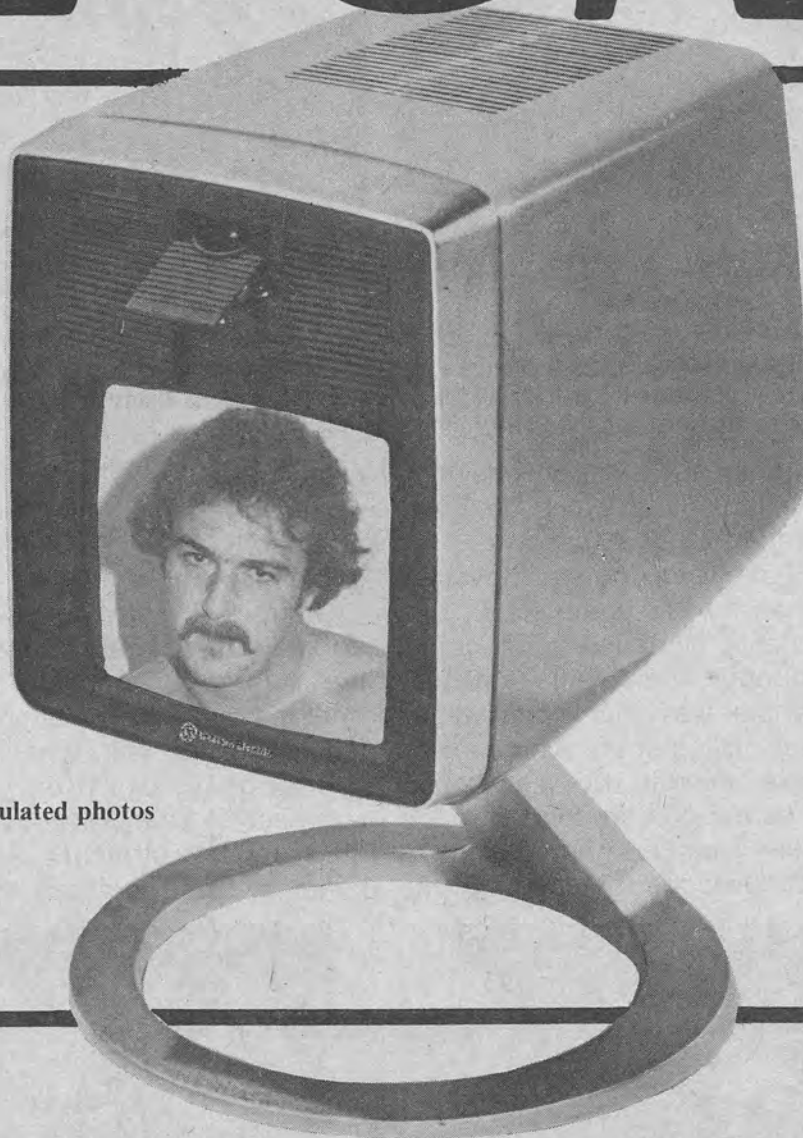
JR: I didn't have to call you that night.

PO: Friends are supposed to do things because they care, not because they have to.

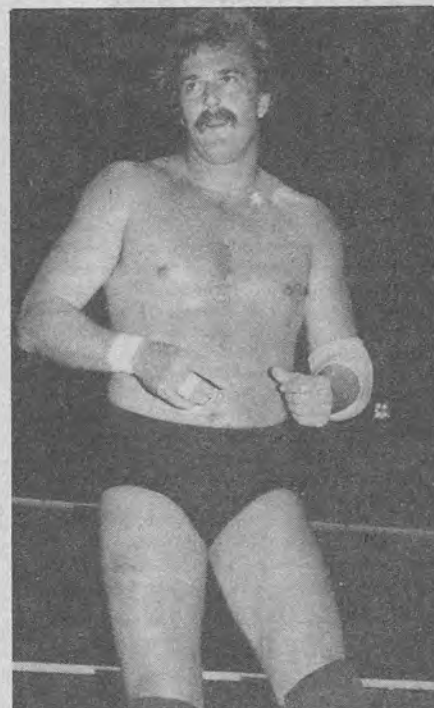
JR: We assumed . . .

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

W ONE



Simulated photos



JAKE ROBERTS

PO: Who's "we"?

JR: The wrestlers in the room waiting for you assumed that you didn't arrive late because you were too ill. It never occurred to us that a man claiming to be a professional would oversleep. And when the main event wrestler doesn't show, we followed standard procedure.

PO: Since when is stabbing a friend in the back standard

procedure?

JR: Are you saying we all got together to stab you in the back? That's ridiculous!

PO: That's what happened. All of my so-called friends couldn't bother to pick up a telephone to see why I was late. Instead, the vultures circled around and drew straws for the title shot that belonged to me. You all hoped to get the belt for yourselves. Any chance

that comes along, take it, no matter who you have to walk over.

JR: Why did you oversleep?

PO: I was tired.

JR: C'mon, let's be honest. It's about time you faced some facts. You overslept because you were scared. Deep down, you didn't want to wrestle Masked Grapppler. I spoke to a psychologist about you. He said oversleeping is a common escape from doing things that scare you. Rather than face the truth, you turn on your friends. That's also common. The psychologist had a lot of fancy words for what you did. It all boiled down to

(Continued on page 62)

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Andre vs. Killer Khan

(Continued from Page 35)



Killer Khan looks up to see Andre's massive right arm dropping on his face (above left). Andre soars through the air toward a near-unconscious Khan as special referees Gorilla Monsoon and Pat Patterson look on (above right).

If that move was surprising to the fans, what came next was even more of a shock.

Following Andre's bodyslam, Khan was completely out. Asleep. Concussion or coma, nobody knew. All that was certain was that Khan wasn't moving an inch. The medics were called in with a stretcher.

As the doctors tended to the fallen wrestler, Andre turned to acknowledge the cheers of the

crowd. Suddenly, he turned to see Khan being lifted to the stretcher. Just as suddenly, he lost all control of himself.

Charging the stretcher like an enraged bull, Andre knocked the injured Mongolian back onto the mat. The impact of the fall woke Khan, who was thoroughly stunned and surprised at what was going on.

Seizing the stretcher, Andre began to use it to attack Khan.



A woozy Khan is lifted onto a stretcher by Monsoon and ring attendants after being examined by the physician. Seconds later, Andre viciously attacked again.

Swinging it over his head, Andre brought it down to the mat like an incredibly oversized ax, just missing Khan twice.

The Mongolian maniac, still writhing in pain from Andre's attacks during the match itself, managed to crawl and inch his way out of the ring, under the ropes, and finally onto the floor, where he hobbled quickly, but painfully, back to his dressing room. Andre chased him all the way.

The fans went wild. What would you expect? Then again, the bloodthirsty quality of many wrestling fans has been proven time and again in the past. What is surprising about this incident is the fact that Andre the Giant was so taken with power and destruction.

Throughout his career, and it is a long and decorated career, Andre the Giant has stood for one principle: honor. Honor in the face of adversity, honor in sports and all other phases of one's life, honor above all.

At Madison Square Garden that night, Andre the Giant dishonored himself. It was a shameful display of highly uncharacteristic behavior which should never have occurred.

The sad thing about it all is that nothing can be done to change it: the deed is performed, the damage incurred, the black eye given to the sport.

Too many wrestlers speak of things like honor and respect. For years, Andre the Giant was one man you could count on to apply those principles he spoke of in his everyday life.

In the future, how seriously can we take Andre when he speaks of honor? Can we believe him if he talks about integrity in the ring? How long will it be before he earns back the respect of the fans? Or has he lost it forever? ☐

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 10)



Mascaras sends Killer Khan in flight with one of his patented flips. No one does it quite like Mil.

in the diner across the street from the garage while I was waiting.

Four hours (and \$47) later I was on the road again. At least the Green Giant had new gaskets and brackets. I only hoped they would hold.

It was early Wednesday morning when I crossed the Mississippi border into Louisiana. Not too much further until Houston, I thought... this is the home stretch.

Speeding towards Houston and my rendezvous with Mascaras, I weighed his words carefully in my mind. I had read an interview with him where he noted that "it's a sad thing to have to leave the WWF, but it's also quite inevitable. There are many things I must accomplish in wrestling, and for now, the WWF is not the place to accomplish them."

I hoped that through my discussion with Mascaras, I would be able to add my voice to the already considerable doubts about his departure.

Wednesday afternoon, 15 miles outside of Lake Charles, my car died. No idea what happened, but

there was a full tank of gas. It simply stopped running. Cursing Detroit, I hitched back into Lake Charles. By now it was evening. Mascaras was probably waiting for me. Fortunately, I had the number of the hotel where I was to meet with him.

"Mil? Is that you?" I breathed a sigh of relief as I finally reached him on the phone. "Listen, it's chaos around here! Muraco is sending prelim guys to the hospital all over the place with crippled windpipes, Valentine is adding to the carnage by breaking legs left and right, and Fuji and Saito are running roughshod over tag teams like there's no tomorrow."

There was a thoughtful pause from the other end of the phone. "I know," said Mascaras calmly, "and I realize that something must be done. I had planned to utilize my talents elsewhere, but the problems that you point out are true. Something should be done soon."

Sweat laced my brow as another thoughtful pause stretched into a minute, and then two minutes, and then...

"I will return," he declared. "There is too much happening in the WWF that needs my attention. I must stay and help."

I broke into a wide smile and I heard the news. Apologizing for having missed seeing him in person, I then thanked him on behalf of WWF fans everywhere. I assured him that he had made the right decision.

As I hung up the phone, my smile deteriorated into complete and total disgust. My car. I picked up the phone again and dialed the number of the towing service listed on the sticker inside the phone booth. I thought about what my editor would say when he saw the expense account for this trip. I smiled once again. □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)

mouth was in full gear, and he was shouting in Italian. The announcer had to calm him down a bit before he could be understood. I think I remember the words.

"I don't go into the ring with the intention of harming someone for life. But when I get into the ring with you, Killer Kowalski, I will make you pay for what you did to my friend, Arnold Skoaland."

I instantaneously became a Bruno Sammartino fan. You have to admire someone who is willing to put his body on the line for the sake of a friend.

Actually, Bruno was putting his body on the line for an entire sport. He loved professional wrestling, and while he held one of the sport's top honors, he was not going to let treacherous men like Kowalski, George Steele, Waldo Von Erich, The Sheik, Hans Mortier, Nikolai Volkoff, or Larry Zbyszko soak the blood of its existence.

From the day my parents decided I was old enough to travel by train from Long Island to New York City, I never missed one of Bruno's Madison Square Garden title defenses. Those matches were filled with more drama than any Knick game, Ranger game, or heavyweight boxing match the Garden ever had.

His challenger would enter the ring first, usually accompanied by his devious manager. As he paraded around the ring soaking up the contempt of the fans, your mind flashed back to all those wrestlers he decapitated en route to that title shot. He looked awesome, and you began to imagine how it would be if he were champion. You were truly worried.



A night that will forever be remembered: May 17, 1963, when Bruno defeated Buddy Rogers for the WWF title at the old Madison Square Garden.

But then you heard a cheer from the far corner of the arena, as a small portion of the crowd caught a glimpse of Bruno Sammartino entering the corridor to the ring. Soon everybody would see him and 22,000 people begin their familiar chant: *Bruno... Bruno... Bruno.*

He hustled into the ring, handed his diamond-studded championship belt to his manager, Arnold Skoaland, and he was ready. Immediately your fears were gone. As long as Bruno was there, everything would be all right.

But no more. It is time for Bruno to leave us now. In a 22-year career that spanned four decades, uncountable title defenses, and immeasurable thrills, he earned the title, "Living Legend." There will never be another.

"Every athlete has to finally call it quits at one point or another," Bruno told the gathering of reporters. "My time has come and I have no regrets. I stand before you confident that there is an ample number of men dedicated to the principles of sportsmanship and fair play. I am confident that the sport of professional wrestling has grown much larger than any group of men who call themselves wrestlers yet only erode the sport with their twisted interpretation of the rules."

I wish I were so confident. ☐

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(Continued from Page 14)

sportsmanship, Backlund will assault his challengers with everything including the kitchen sink. All the while, his bribed referee will watch and applaud. Afterwards, as he watches his wasted foe being carried off, Backlund will give the fans a lecture on sportsmanship and clean living. What's more, his legion of admirers will believe every word.

Backlund won't be the only fan today to follow in Andre's oversized footsteps. Tommy Rich won't waste a second, once he realizes his foes won't be able to do the same in return. That sniveling coward is just the kind to take advantage of the situation. Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell will throw the AWA back into the dark ages. All this will happen with the fans cheering wildly.

The Andre the Giant barbarism is the worst thing that has happened to wrestling since Bruno Sammartino. Within months, the sport will change for the worse. Incompetent boobs can wreak any havoc they wish. The real men in this sport must run for cover. It's open season on anyone who doesn't bow to the fans.

The real blame for this fiasco lies with the commissioners. They're the ones who allowed Andre to get away with his horrible savagery. They did this for

two reasons. First, Andre is popular and sells tickets. They don't want to lose any money that would be lost during an Andre suspension. Secondly, they don't have the guts to suspend a fan favorite. It takes integrity to go against the majority opinion, and you could stuff all the wrestling officials' integrity into an ant's navel and still have room left over for Ted DiBiase's courage.

Andre has proven that a popular wrestler can get away with anything, no matter how repugnant it might be to civilized humanity. This is the real disgrace. If Andre were punished, it would have shown wrestling to be a sport of decency and fairness. Instead, wrestling is shown to be an association of greedy cowards eager to squash any who defy them. The cowardice of the wrestling officials is a disgrace, a tragedy, and an abomination against justice.

If Andre the Giant goes unpunished, wrestling is doomed. It's as simple and as dangerous as that. We are faced with the most important crisis in wrestling history. If we fail to affirm wrestling's integrity, then the sport will be nothing more than a preserve for sadistic toadies. From the commissioners on down, the whole shooting match won't be worth a bucket of spit. □

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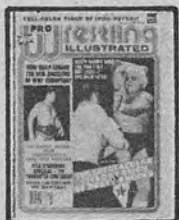
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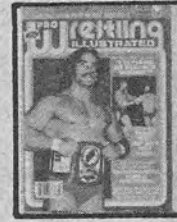
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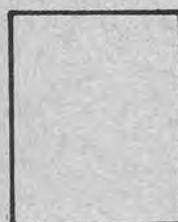
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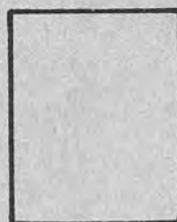
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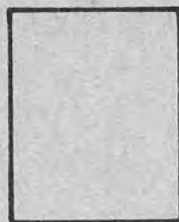
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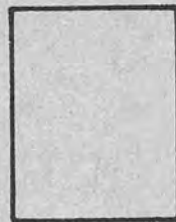
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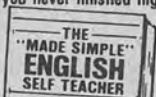
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Blackjack Mulligan is still on the mend after having his arm broken in Knoxville. Both John Studd and Bruiser Brody want to be recognized as the man who broke the arm.

use his weight as an advantage
(ever see anyone effectively
apply a bearhug against him?)
Rhodes will never be a jockey;
this is true. But every doctor
who has ever examined him has
found Rhodes to be in
top shape.

RUMOR: A hot feud is
developing between Dino
Bravo and Crusher Blackwell in
the NWA. Seems that Blackwell
is claiming to be the best-
looking wrestler in the Alliance.
Bravo, always a favorite of the
ladies, has taken exception.

FACT: Bravo is handsome,
but also humble. "Blackwell
talks a lot, but I'm not in
wrestling to win a beauty
contest, and neither is he. He's
just yapping about this to

unsettle me because he knows
he's not good enough to beat
me in the ring."

"Bravo is a goody-good-good
who can't make a decision
without his momma by his
side," retorted Blackwell. "A real
woman knows a real man when
she sees him, and I've never had
to go looking for a lady. They
come to me."

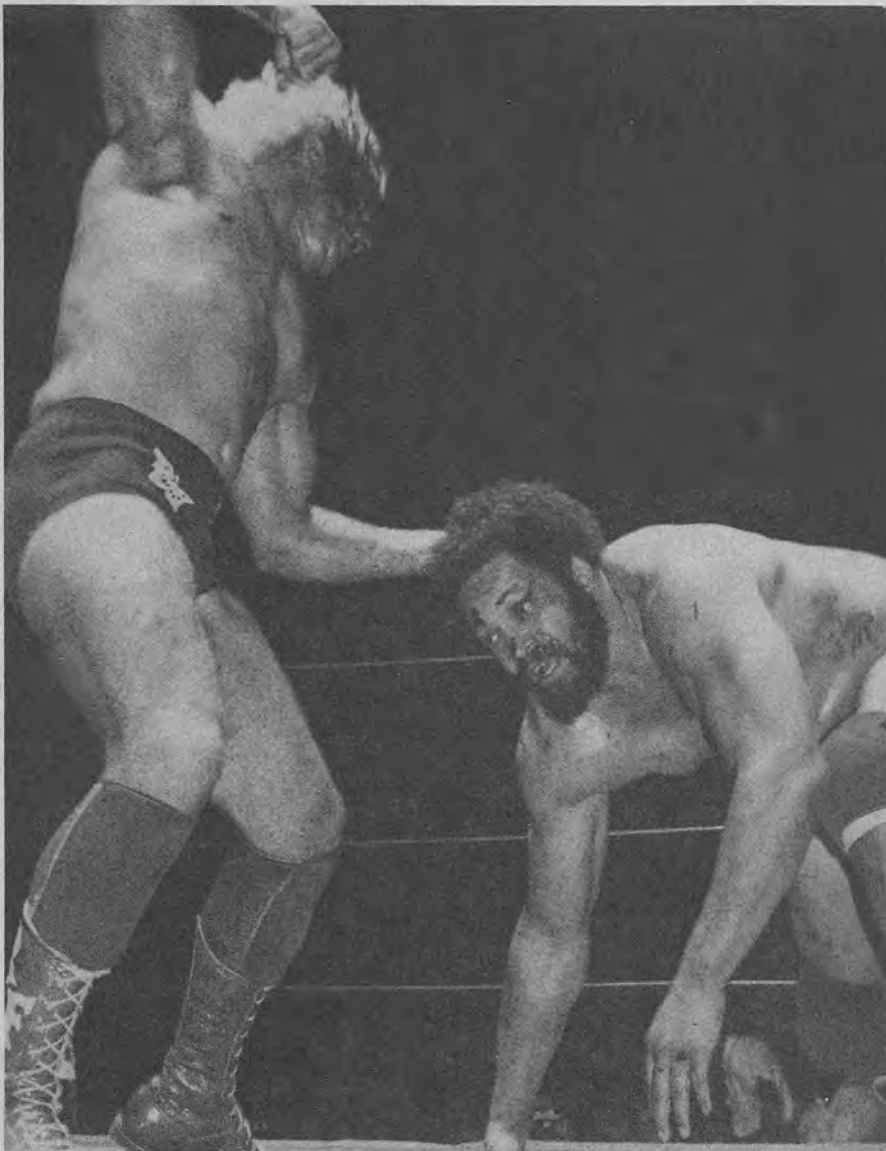
INJURY REPORT

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN is
recovering from the broken arm
he suffered in Knoxville. Both
JOHN STUDD and **BRUISER
BRODY** are taking credit for the
hideous accomplishment.

That's all for now. Catch you
later. □

LADD- RHODES

(Continued from Page 44)



Ladd, a former all-pro defensive tackle, is in a familiar stance. Before Flair can throw his overhand right, Ladd will spring at the "Nature Boy," driving his back into the canvas.

Instead, he smiles slyly, looking like a gambler who just drew a royal flush.

"Would I do something like that?" Ladd asks rhetorically. "What would make me do it?"

"Money."

"Yeah, money might make me do it. But it would have to be a lot of money. Then again, Rhodes has a lot of money, doesn't he? Now, I'm not saying I'd do something as mean and rotten as being Rhodes' hit man, but he certainly could afford it. Now, do you really think Dusty would pay

money to keep the title he's wanted all his life? He did lose it real quick the last time, so that might make him scared. I suppose there is reason to think Rhodes would hire a hit man. Come to think of it, I would be the best man for the job."

Ric Flair will agree that Ladd is the best man for the job. Rhodes couldn't be more pleased with himself. Though he'll keep denying any wrongdoing, he'll remain champion. Why shouldn't he? It's two against one. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 6)



George Steele, snacking on his own personal turnbuckle, has no chance of taking Bob Backlund's WWF crown, writes Glenn Bryant in response to a letter by Bob Stoner in the September 1981 edition.

CAN'T BELIEVE IT

In the September 1981 edition of *Inside Wrestling* I was amazed at someone wanting George "The Animal" Steele to become WWF champion. Well, don't get your hopes up, Stonehead, because it's not about to happen. Backlund is a great champion along with his manager Arnold Skoaland . . . the two of them together are unbeatable. Besides, Steele

would rather eat the belt than defend it.

GLENN BRYANT
Little Rock, AR

CRUEL FANS

I have a comment for all the wrestling fans out there.

Some of you people can really be cruel and self-centered. Cursing, screaming, and throwing things at rulebreakers is really vain and unnecessary.



Fans should have more compassion for men like Jimmy Snuka, writes Mary Smith.

Sure, these men might break the rules and seriously hurt the good scientific wrestlers, but they too have to go through the same traveling, work, training, and pressure as the rest of the wrestlers.

There's one thing that they don't get that the others do: appreciation from the fans. No wonder they don't want it, we won't give it to them in the first place, and why should they want it from us when we don't really appreciate them?

Just think if all the wrestlers out there were "good guys." We'd eventually force some of them into turning bad because if one of them seriously hurt another wrestler during a match (accidents do happen), we'd turn against them. Or hard feelings would eventually come around causing them to turn bad.

So think about this: Why do you think so many of them turn bad? Do you actually think that they enjoy being "bad guys"? What would we do if all wrestlers were scientific wrestlers?

MARY SMITH
Richmond, VA □

SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

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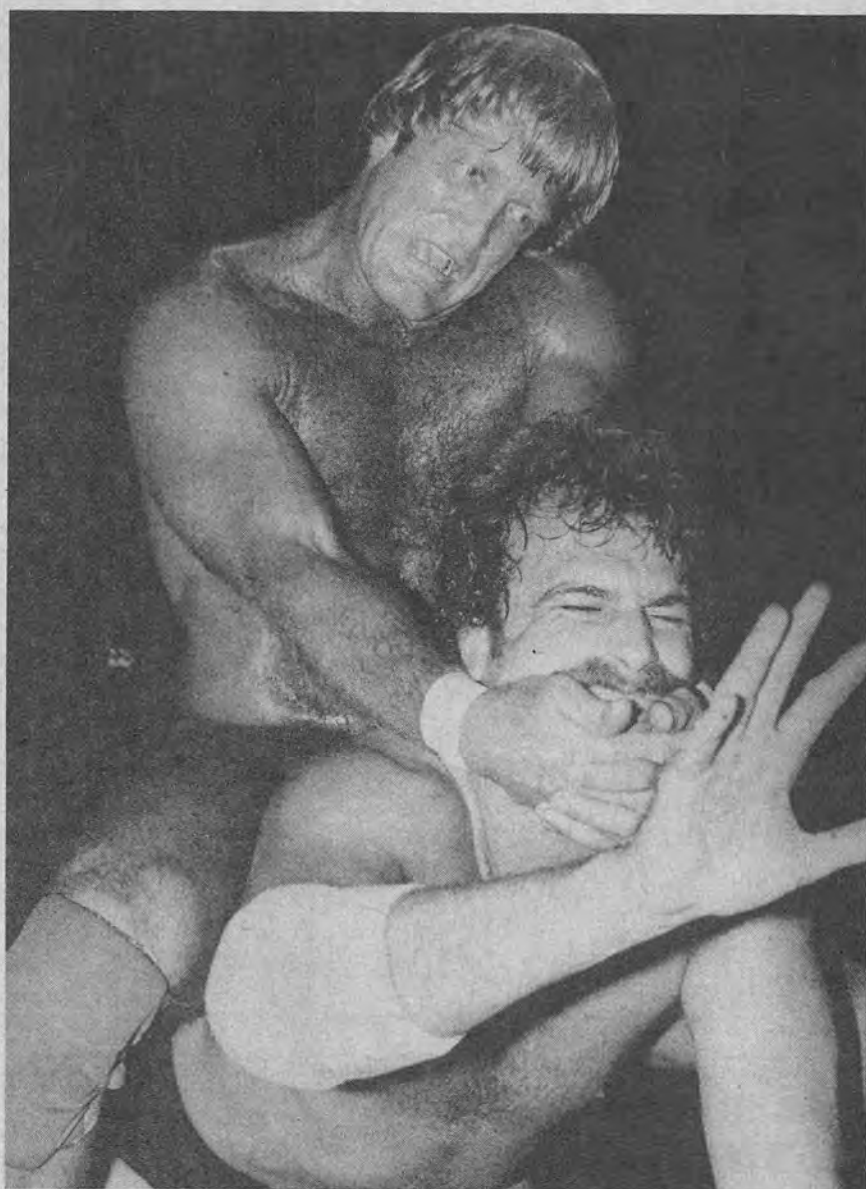
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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 49)



Formerly the best of friends, cold jealousy has driven Paul Orndorff and Jake Roberts to bitter hatred. Orndorff bends Roberts' back with a rear chinlock.

you were scared of Masked Grappler. We didn't take your title shot from you. You surrendered it.

PO: That's a pile of slop and you know it. I've never run away from a match in my life!

JR: I didn't say you ran away. You just never showed up.

PO: I ought to break you apart for that.

JR: You'll get the chance. The question is whether you'll

show up.

PO: Keep it up, punk. That'll make it all the sweeter when they send in the stretcher for you.

JR: You sure are brave over the phone. Too bad you couldn't have talked Masked Grappler out of his title.

PO: I could've beaten him. You know that. You used my strategies. I've seen films of the match and I know. If an

imitator beat him, the original would've destroyed him.

JR: Let me get this right. According to you, I stole your strategies, your title shot, your friendship, and probably your car. This is the most ridiculous nonsense...

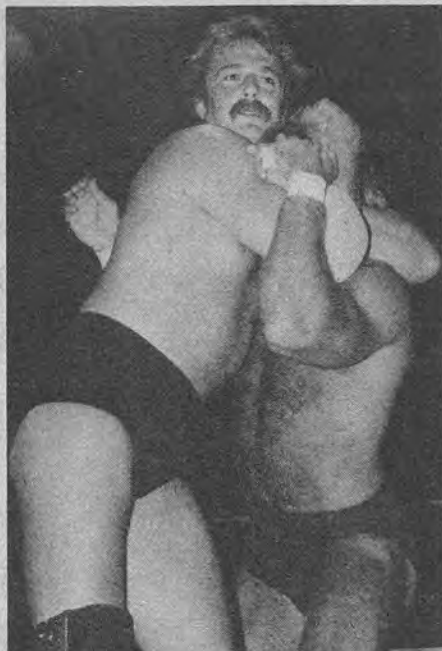
PO: There's nothing ridiculous about stealing a title!

JR: I didn't steal a title. I won it fair and square. And there is something ridiculous about oversleeping for a title shot. I guess it would be ridiculous if it wasn't so sad.

PO: Don't you ever pretend to pity me!

JR: I'm not pretending.

PO: You despicable rat!



Roberts tries to put Orndorff to sleep, precisely the state of consciousness that caused the feud in the first place.

JR: This is getting us nowhere. I might as well hang up. I hoped this phone call could set things straight, make you realize there is no conspiracy against you. Instead, I have to listen to your insane rantings. You're too far gone to see the truth. The only thing that'll satisfy you is for me to give up the belt. Don't hold your breath.

PO: Being around you, people have to hold their breath! Hahaha!

JR: I have nothing more to say to you. We'll settle this in the ring.

PO: Anytime, pal, anytime.

JR: I'll make sure you wake up for this one. Then I'll put you to sleep. ☐

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SWEET BROWN SUGAR

(Continued from Page 39)



She loves him when his face is covered, but will she love him without the mask? Sweet Brown Sugar is unsure. And in a sport that requires as much concentration as professional wrestling, the added pressure he brings upon himself could severely hamper his performance.

intriguing idea. To learn more, *Inside Wrestling* contacted Dr. Mitch Roberts of the Midwest Center for Aural Research.

"It is very possible that the type of material in a wrestler's mask could filter crowd noise enough to have the kinds of effects that Mr. Sugar describes," said Dr.

Roberts. "How he personally perceives and deals with these changes, though, is a psychological matter. It would be my guess, though, that these different perceptions would bring different response mechanisms into play, probably to the point of altering basic ideological input."



Sugar executes a legstretcher on Masked Assassin #1. An unmasked Sugar is a pleasant sight, but what would happen if his opponent unmasked?

What this means in plain language is that if Sweet Brown Sugar hears different things coming from the fans, he is going to react in a different way.

"Right now, I'm confused," confessed Sweet. "I can't tell whether I'm being cheered for my wrestling, for having taken my mask off, whether I'm being booed instead of cheered, whether the fans are willing to accept me as something other than a masked wrestler. It's all very confusing now. I wish I had some sort of substantial evidence from the fans about how they feel."

This is where you, the fans come into play. You can help Sweet Brown Sugar. You are the only ones who can help to restore his self-esteem. Only the fans themselves can relate to Sweet how they feel about him.

Let him know. At the matches, cheer him loud and clear. Let him know through the mail. Let him know, one way or the other, how you feel about him. Only you can clear up Sweet's confusion. Only you can salvage his career. ☐

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And nobody will even have the faintest idea that you're behind it all. That's the beauty of "Automatic Mind-Command"—you are the only one who knows what's going on—you alone decide when things should start . . . stop . . . change around.

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Impossible? You'll be doing things like that every day without even thinking about it. As soon as you need something done, it's done! The people who do these things for you will remember what they did, but not why!

FUN POWER—TOO!

You can have a lot of fun with this power, too. Look how Evelyn C. used it at work . . . One day, while sorting papers, her boss angrily inquired why she had to make so much noise—and scolded her in front of everybody. Evelyn said nothing, but smiled to herself—for she had just turned on the "Automatic Mind-Command" . . . Suddenly the boss apologized for being a scoundrel. "Please . . . I'm sorry," he said, in front of everybody. "I'd like to make it up to you!" And he told her what a wonderful person she was! When Evelyn turned the power off, the boss just stood there with an open mouth, wondering what made him say all those things.

Think what this power can mean in your life. You need money . . . and it's there! You want some affection . . . you'll be smothered! You want peace and quiet . . . the world stands still!

NO MORE SECRETS WILL BE KEPT FROM YOU!

People who think they can hold back the facts will meet their master in you! You just fire a little "Automatic Mind-Command" at them, and they'll sing like meadowlarks . . . Nona J. was at her wits' end when she tried to find the money she'd put aside to pay the rent—it was gone. A frantic search through the house turned up nothing. There was only one possibility left . . . she asked Billy, a look of surprise crossed his face. No—he hadn't seen any money. But Nona didn't believe him, and started using "Automatic Mind-Command" to find out if he was telling the truth. Suddenly Billy reached into his pocket and took out a roll of money. After giving her the money, he acted as if nothing had happened!

Think how many secrets must be hidden all around you! Things your spouse won't tell . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott Reed is one of the nation's leading mind-power experts. Presently engaged as a writer on developments in the behavioral sciences, his revelations about the unseen world of the mind have been read by millions. A graduate of the City University of New York, his own life is living proof of "Automatic Mind-Command."

A Master Researcher, Metaphysician, and Psychic Advisor, he has helped countless men and women find true happiness. He has the rare ability of writing clearly and simply so that even the most profound Truths can be plainly understood by anyone.

your neighbors won't say . . . your boss keeps quiet about . . . **ALL BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN JUST FOR YOU!!** They'll tell you all their secrets, but they won't know why.

Hold on now, because I haven't told you yet about the best part of "Automatic Mind-Command."

You may have to bolt your door to keep people from overwhelming you with love, gifts, favors, rewards! Perfect strangers will be walking up to you and asking, "How are you? Can I do anything for you?" They will never suspect that "Automatic Mind-Command" is impelling them to like you, please you . . . and automatically want to help you.

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At first, I couldn't believe it. And yet I know this to be true from my own personal experience . . . time after time. For example . . .

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Unusual? Not at all . . . things happen every day with "Automatic Mind-Command."

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In all history, few indeed are the ones who have recognized "Automatic Mind-Command." The rest, who do not use it, pay the penalty in suffering, wishing, hoping, dreaming . . . Now I say to you: Wish no more!

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Larry S. wanted to see his girlfriend—although he had no idea where she was—and no way of

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contacting her by letter or phone. From far away . . . he began using "Automatic Mind-Command!" In that instant, his girlfriend knew what she had to do. She dropped what she was doing, excused herself and hurried to visit him. Arriving in record time—she hugged and kissed him, explaining that "something" told her he wanted and needed her, and what could she do for him!

Now here's a most fantastic use of "Automatic Mind-Command"—one I'm sure you'll agree proves that here is a power which staggers the imagination!

For example, cases of health-symptoms relieved with "Automatic Mind-Command!" John C. reports that his hearing now seems normal again! Warren W.'s blurred eyesight cleared, sharpened, and now seems normal! Lydia E. says her arthritic symptoms of soreness and stiffness in the fingers were relieved when nothing else seemed to help, and Mrs. M. S. was surprised when her leg pain disappeared. Bella S., who complained of "ulcerative colitis" with stomach cramps and diarrhea, obtained fast relief . . . And others report relief from complaints of high blood pressure, heart symptoms, "migraine" headaches, weakness, dizziness, fatigue, and more.

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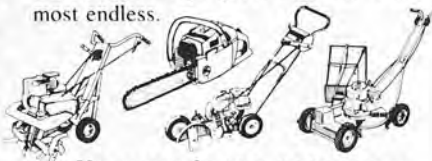
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